WORLD / A21

Enron founder dies while waiting for prison sentence in largest corporate scandal in US history

NEWS / A6

Biazon: Withdrawal of support not a crime; Lim can't be charged

ENTERTAINMENT/ A2-6

Celebs caught on cam by Mandy Navasero cheering people's idol

North Korea threatens more missile launches

SEOUL—AMID SIGNS OF FURTHER ACTIVITY at the reclusive regime's launch sites, a defiant North Korea on Thursday threatened to test-fire more missiles and warned of even stronger action if opponents of the tests put pressure on the country.

The further show of bravado by Pyongyang came amid intense diplomatic jockeying by the

N.KOREA/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, July 7, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 209 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Palace, DOJ ratings in corruption survey fall

By Cyril L. Bonabente
PDI Research

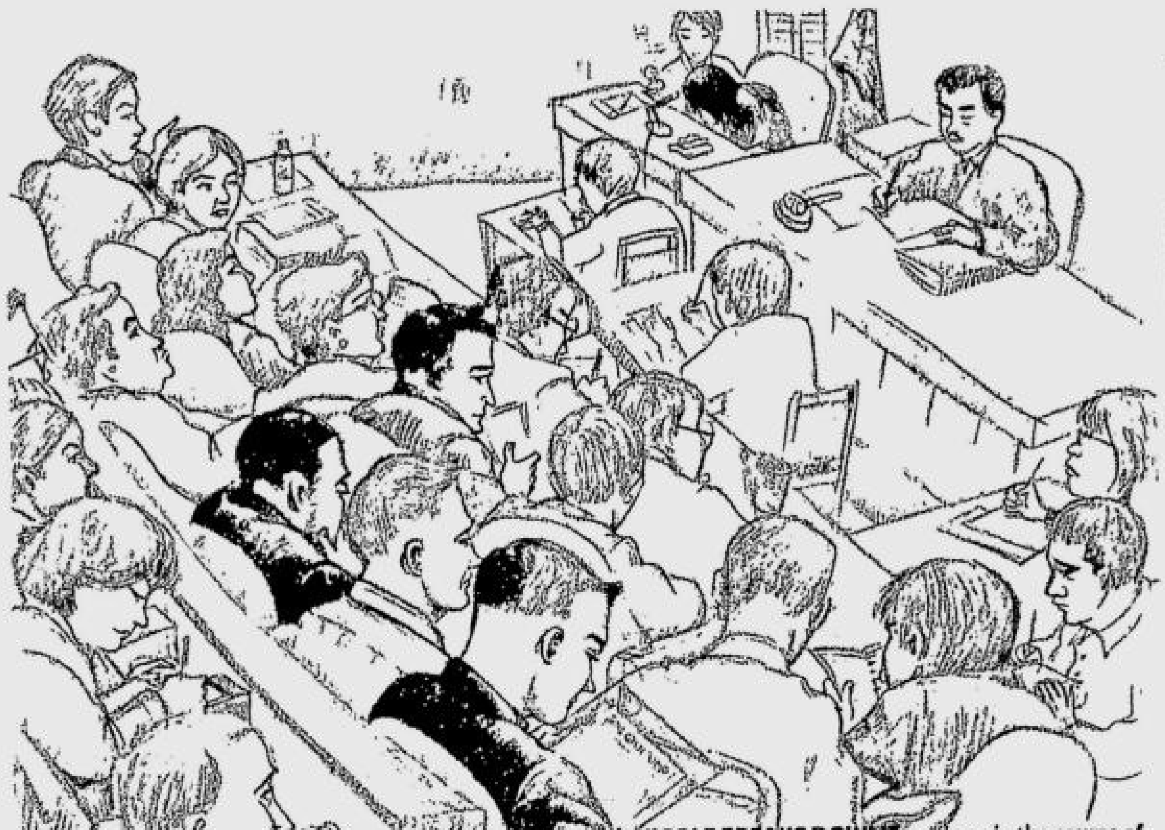
IF YOU CAN'T LICK 'EM, JOIN 'EM!

COMPARED TO LAST year, more business managers believe that key government agencies are insincere in fighting corruption, but a declining number

PALACE/ A6

'Lim's video saved GMA'

Angry junior military officers wanted to storm Malacañang



NICOLE BREAKS DOWN four times in the course of her three-hour testimony during the trial now on its sixth emotional week. SKETCH BY STEPH BRAVO

ERNIE SARMIENTO

WITH her back to the camera, Nicole allows herself to be photographed in a condo unit in Mandaluyong on Thursday.

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE COMMANDER OF THE elite First Scout Ranger Regiment stood in the eye of a storm two nights before that fateful February day—calm and deliberate as angry junior officers demanded that he lead a coup d'etat against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim cautioned prudence and saved Ms Arroyo from a bloody confrontation with rebellious soldiers, a key participant told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He no longer wanted bloodshed, recalling the 1989 putsch against then President Corazon Aquino that had cost scores of soldiers' lives. As a young captain, Lim had then led the military takeover of the Makati business district and, several days later, took them back to barracks as the bloodiest coup in the nation's history fizzled.

Lim was subsequently amnestied, along with several thousand renegade soldiers. He had risen to become at 50 one of the youngest and most respected generals in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

So that when restive soldiers again began mobilizing after allegations surfaced in

LIM'S VIDEO/ A6

'Nicole' points to Corporal Smith as her rapist

By Volt Contreras

IT WAS, AS HER THERAPIST PUT IT, a three-hour "torture."

The Filipino complainant in the Subic rape case took the stand yesterday in a packed courtroom and started recalling what transpired on the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

The hearing was suspended four times to allow the 22-year-old woman to recover from weeping.

But she pointed to Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith, one of the four accused US Marines, as the dance partner whom she casually met in a crowded bar and who would be "lying on top" of her minutes later.

"Nicole" returns to the stand today and is expected to recount the alleged rape in detail. Her lawyers had previously notified Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon's court that they might bar the public from the proceedings during delicate portions of her testimony.

The direct examination by private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua mainly sought to establish how drunk Nicole purportedly was when she met Smith at the popular Neptune Club in the Subic Freeport shortly

NICOLE/ A5

Defensor: Palace monitored De Villa, Tonyboy Cojuangco

By Christine O. Avendaño
and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SAID AUTHORITIES had monitored activities of businessman Antonio "Tony Boy" Cojuangco, former Executive Secretary Renato de Villa and journalist Cecil Arillo in connection with the failed coup attempt on Feb. 24.

But the Palace had no report on the involvement in the alleged coup plot of businessmen Iñigo Zobel and F.F. Cruz Jr., as well as former Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos, according to Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor.

Defensor was reacting to former Ambas-

DEFENSOR/ A6

Señeres et al. face sedition raps, says Gonzalez

By Leila B. Salaverria
and Margaux C. Ortiz

FORMER AMBASSADOR ROY Señeres and the civilians whom he named as Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim's alleged civilian backers may be charged with inciting to sedition, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

Gonzalez said he had directed the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the INQUIRER report in which Señeres named names and admitted that he himself had encouraged Lim, the then commander of the First Scout Ranger Regiment, to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo in February.

"I ordered the NBI to investigate all the persons mentioned by Señeres. I want this investigation to embrace all these incidents," Gonzalez told reporters. He said the "widespread investigation" would examine many angles.

The justice secretary also said Lim's military supporters could be liable for charges of mutiny, and Lim himself, for perjury for earlier disclaiming involvement in actions against Ms Arroyo.

He said Lim's video could be used as evidence.

Earlier in the day, Executive Secre-

SEÑERES/ A6

UN to probe RP rights record, says Madrigal

By Norman Bordadora

THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR on the right to freedom of opinion and expression has given the commitment that the human rights situation in the Philippines "will be under immense scrutiny" after opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal presented cases of alleged political repression.

In a video of Madrigal's meeting with Ambeyi Ligabo in Geneva on June 22, the rapporteur said he would ask the Philippine govern-

UN TO PROBE/ A4

4 more militants slain

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Marlon Ramos, Joey S. Gabieta and Tonette Orejas

FOUR MORE MILITANTS, INCLUDING TWO members of the party-list group Bayan Muna and a farmer earlier seized by soldiers for his alleged links to a communist armed group, were shot dead in four separate incidents in Batangas, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga and Tacloban City.

Robert de Castro, Bayan Muna national deputy secretary general, identified the two Bayan Muna

4 MORE/ A4

It's Italy vs France in World Cup final

MUNICH, GERMANY—IT WILL BE A MATCH-UP of blue—France's Les Bleus vs Italy's Azzurri—at the World Cup final in Berlin on Sunday.

Zinedine Zidane, stepping up to the penalty spot and coolly putting France into the World Cup final, scored the only goal on Wednesday to give his team a 1-0 win over Portugal.

Zidane converted the penalty kick in the 33rd minute after Ricardo Carvalho was whistled for bringing down Thierry Henry.

Italy, trying for its fourth title, will be in its sixth final. France, which also defeated Portugal in the

IT'S ITALY/ A8

FABIO CANNAVARO of Italy *Reuters*

Italy

defeated	
Germany	2-0
Ukraine	3-0
Australia	1-0
Czech Republic	2-0
Ghana	2-0
drew with	
USA	1-1
FIFA Ranking*	No. 13

World Cup champions in:
1934 (vs Czechoslovakia)
1938 (vs Hungary)
1982 (vs Germany)

France

defeated	
Portugal	1-0
Brazil	1-0
Spain	3-1
Togo	2-0
drew with	
South Korea	1-1
Switzerland	0-0
FIFA Ranking*	No. 8

World Cup champions in 1998 (vs Brazil)

*Philippines : No. 191

ZINEDINE ZIDANE of France AFP

INQFOGRAPHIC ESANBO/LA MISTADES

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/07/06/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Second FRONTPAGE

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Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Gov't leaving door open for peace talks

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.
and Michael Lim Ubac

JAMBY MADRIGAL and Satur Ocampo: Questions to be answered

RAFFY LERMA

THE GOVERNMENT IS leaving the door open for the resumption of peace negotiations with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army- National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) but, Malacañang said yesterday, the communists must prove their sincerity in silencing the guns of their armed agents.

"We have not totally shut down the peace process. What we are looking for is what comprises their real intent and purpose in the negotiation," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said in a radio interview.

"If they are really sincere, why don't they enforce a real ceasefire?"

Ermita noted that the CPP-NPA-NDF had continued to step up attacks while the talks were ongoing.

He cited as example the killings of Cagayan Gov. Rodolfo Aguinaldo and Rep. Marcial Punzalan Jr. by NPA hitmen in 2004 while talks between the government and the leftist groups were taking place in the Netherlands.

Ermita said the peace talks would succeed if a true ceasefire was in place even before a final peace pact was signed, in the manner a peace agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front was concluded.

The government has said the communists' insincerity was the main reason why it has turned a deaf ear to the CPP-NPA-NDF's recent call for the resumption of talks.

"It's bad enough that our Armed Forces and the police force have been reminding us all along that the communists might be using the peace process to bring us into complacency by softening down in our discussions with them," said Ermita.

"We were not born yesterday. We know all about their hot and cold treatment of the government."

But Bayan Muna president and partylist Rep. Satur Ocampo claimed yesterday President Macapagal-Arroyo was not interested in talking peace.

He asked the President: "Will you stop the all-out war and the political assassinations?

"Will you resume formal peace negotiations based on the previously signed agreements between the government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP)? Will you seek ways to end the terrorist-tagging by foreign governments against the CPP, NPA and NDFP chief political consultant Jose Maria Sison?"

Ocampo called on "peace-loving Filipinos" to condemn what he called the Arroyo government's "culture of vilification and war" amid the all-out military offensives against communist insurgents.

He reminded Ms Arroyo that the Philippine government remained a party to the formal peace negotiations with the NDFP.

Since 1992, Philippine governments have designated formal peace negotiators with the NDFP who participated in crafting 11 bilateral agreements aimed at solving the root causes of the armed conflict, according to Ocampo.

Masinloc bidder to get notice of termination

By Michelle V. Remo
and Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ISSUE on or before July 10 a notice of termination of its contract with YNN Pacific Holdings, which won the bidding for the 600-megawatt Masinloc coal-fired plant which the administration sought to privatize.

The notice is to be presented following the failure of YNN to pay the required down payment of $227.54 million on the June 30 deadline, which had twice been already extended.

The board of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm) said actual termination would take effect 30 days after the notice was issued.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, who is also chair of the Psalm board, earlier said the board would consider the option of still accepting the down payment should YNN be able to produce the amount within the 30-day period.

An official familiar with the deal but who requested anonymity said the Asset Purchase Agreement (APA) between the government and YNN did not prohibit the former from accepting the down payment even after the deadline had passed as long as the amount was delivered within 30 days before the termination took effect.

But even if YNN were able to pay within the 30-day period, the $14 million in performance bond it had given was already forfeit.

Nieves Osorio, Psalm president, said in a statement that YNN was required to pay the performance bond in order to protect the interest of the government should YNN failed to make good its bid.

Osorio also explained in a statement that the issuance of the notice of termination, including the 30-day period before it could take effect, were specified in the APA between Psalm and YNN.

"Like any other contract, the APA between Psalm and YNN states that we should notify the buyer in writing at least 30 days before the termination takes effect," she said.

The bidding for Masinloc, located in Zambales, was held in December 2004. YNN won after it submitted a bid of $561.74 million. It was much higher than the $274.85-million bid submitted by the Lopez-owned First Generation Holdings, the sole contender.

The bid by First Gen was 30 percent below the government's floor price of $388 million.

The government's award of the contract to YNN was investigated by Congress following talks that the winning bidder was not financially stable and amid suspicion that the bidding was not above board.

Finance officials, however, said that the government had to declare YNN as the winning bidder because it submitted the higher bid.

Psalm had already given YNN two deadline extensions, one from Dec. 2, 2005 to March 31 and another from March 31 to June 30, to make the 40-percent up-front payment for the plant.

The second deadline was granted to allow the entry of a new funder, Malaysian conglomerate Ranhill Bhd, on the condition that YNN increased its performance bond from $11 million to $14 million.

Although Ranhill gave an assurance that it had the resources to cover the down payment, it made a power supply contract with Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. a primary condition for the consummation of the transaction.

Prior to Ranhill's entry and at the time of the bidding for the Masinloc plant, Psalm said prospective bidders indicated that they would participate in the auction even though Masinloc would be sold as a merchant plant, or a plant with no power sales contract.

Despite this, Psalm, together with the National Power Corp., continued negotiating with Meralco for a power supply contract, even proposing a rate of P3.60 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), 80 centavos lower than the regulated rate of P4.40 per kWh at the start of negotiations in 2003.

Meralco refused this offer, however, Psalm said. The matter had already been elevated to the Energy Regulatory Commission, but no ruling had been made up to now.

"As the Masinloc experience has shown, bankers are putting great importance on the power sales contracts with Meralco. At this point, we will have to assess our options as we do not intend to sell Napocor's plants at bargain prices," Osorio said.

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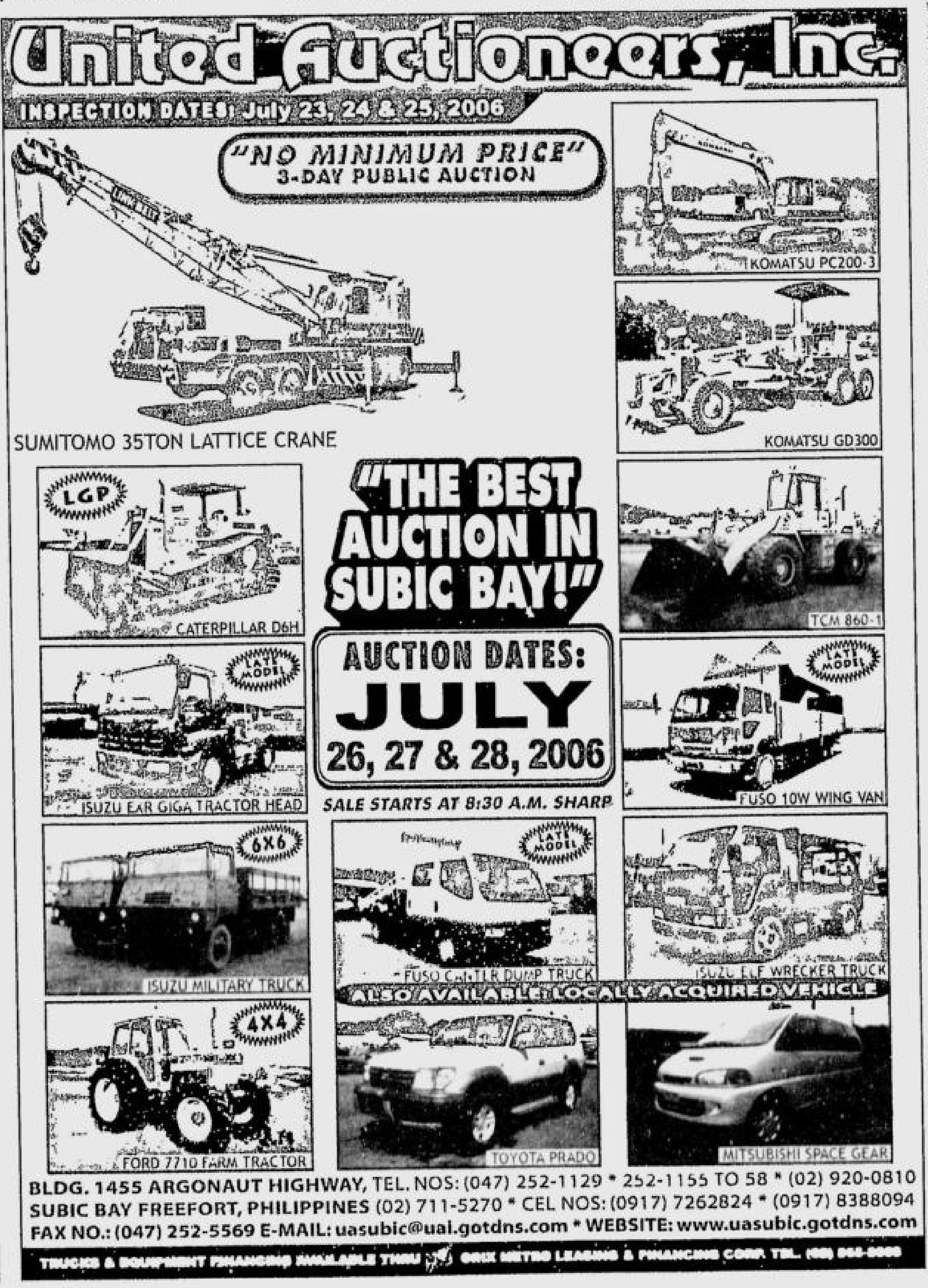

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Sotto: Gringo is clean, Danny Lim caper shows

By TJ Burgonio

IN VIEW OF FRESH INDICATIONS he had no hand in the reported Feb. 24 coup plot, the Department of Justice should grant Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan's petition for preliminary investigation in connection with the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

"It's about time that the petition of Greg Honasan for a preliminary investigation pending in the DOJ be acted upon. Justice must prevail," Honasan's former colleague, former Sen. Vicente Sotto III, said yesterday, in his appeal to the DOJ.

"He's not involved, he's not mentioned," he added, referring to the supposed plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 24, the 20th anniversary of the People Power Revolution.

Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim had been implicated in the plot. Former Ambassador Roy Señeres had admitted he and several other personalities encouraged Lim to withdraw support from President Arroyo.

Sotto said that by conducting a preliminary investigation, the courts could clear Honasan's role in the mutiny as well as clarify "false information" that he was part of the Feb. 24 coup plot.

"Technically, once the petition for preliminary investigation is granted, the warrant of arrest should be lifted, then he will have the feel or sense to think that this case is not being railroaded and that justice will prevail," he said in a briefing at the Senate.

"Therefore, it's time for him to explain, come out and give his side of the story. That's why he's incommunicado, he feels that he doesn't stand a chance because he's not even asked to explain."

Honasan was charged with several others with the crime of coup d'etat in connection with the mutiny on Feb. 24, the day Ms. Arroyo declared a state of emergency following the discovery of an alleged coup plot.

A warrant for his arrest was issued shortly after. The authorities had put up a P5-million bounty for his arrest.

Sotto said that Honasan felt that the filing of charges and the issuance of the arrest warrant against him in connection with the mutiny were an offshoot of false information he had a hand in February's coup plot.

"After Feb. 24, his name was being floated [as a suspect]. There were misleading reports and information given to the police and AFP, confirming the involvement of Senator Honasan," he said.

If the arrest warrant is lifted, he will come out of hiding, he added. The last time Honasan saw Sotto was on Feb. 24. He has gone into hiding since the arrest warrant was issued.

Honasan's co-accused—retired Colonels Romeo Lazo and Virgilio Briones—were arrested separately on June 17 in Quezon City. Both are leaders of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc.

The group's spokesperson, Ernesto Macahiya, was arrested in April in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, also in connection with the mutiny.

Old pals to reunite for new Senate run

GREGORIO "GRINGO" Honasan II, Vicente "Tito" Sotto III, Tessie Aquino-Oreta and John Osmeña want to relive their days at the Senate by running for reelection on the same ticket in next year's mid-term elections.

The four have been gearing up for the May 2007 national elections, where 12 senatorial seats are for grabs, by going the usual route: hitting the road to hold dialogues with the people in the countryside:

"We've been going around. We've been talking about Cha-cha (Charter change). We've been trying to get the pulse of the people, concerning certain issues in government," Sotto admitted yesterday in a briefing.

"And we've been doing an inventory of our political friends."

It was the first time Sotto publicly admitted his bid for reelection, as well as that of his three colleagues in the 12th Congress, from 2001 to 2004.

If ever, they could find themselves being pitted against Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, incoming Senate President Manuel Villar Jr., Joker Arroyo, Ralph Recto, Panfilo Lacson Jr., Jinggoy Estrada and Edgardo Angara.

The seven senators are expected to seek reelection in 2007, while Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senate Pro Tempore Juan Flavier and Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Sergio Osmeña III are graduating.

Despite some political differences in the past, the four decided to "campaign" together in the countryside, form their own group (United Nationalist Organization), and run on the same "independent ticket" next year because of their long-time friendship.

"We know each other; we are friends. We have practically the same friends and supporters," Sotto said.

"We'd rather go independent at this point," the former senator, who has taken a "leave" from the Angara-led Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) party, added in the briefing, but did not elaborate.

But Sotto said they were still open to talks with other parties, saying "We talk with our political friends" from Lakas, LDP, Nationalist People's Coalition, Partido ng Masang Pilipino, PDP-Laban, Liberal Party and Nacionalista Party. *TJ Burgonio*

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Cops file charges vs 2 NPAs in Llamas murder

POLICE HAVE FILED MURDER AND frustrated murder charges against two alleged members of the communist New People's Army for the killing of Sotero Llamas, a former senior leader of the NPA, and the wounding of his bodyguard.

Llamas was killed by three motorcycle-riding gunmen in Barangay Tagas in Tabaco City on May 29, while Marciano Bitara was wounded.

The murder complaint against the three suspects, including alleged NPA members Edgardo Sevilla alias "Ka Diego" or "Ka Palong," and Edgar Calag alias "Ka Vic" was filed with the Tabaco prosecutor's office, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said yesterday.

All three are at large.

"We have four witnesses that positively identified the suspects," said Felix Vargas, a spokesperson for the CIDG.

Asked about the background of the third unidentified suspect, Vargas said: "He must also be an NPA."

Sevilla has four previous warrants for murder and Calag, one, the CIDG said.

A former commander of the NPA forces in the Bicol region, Llamas was freed from jail to help the rebels' political wing, the National Democratic Front, in unsuccessful peace talks with the government.

In 2004, he turned to local politics with an unsuccessful run for the governor's post in Albay province.

The NPA earlier blamed progovernment "death squads" for the murder of Llamas and several hundred other leftist figures over the past five years.

The government denies the charge, with military officials suggesting at least some of the killings were the result of a bloody internal purge of the Maoist movement, which has been waging a 37-year armed campaign. *Reports from AFP and Luige A. del Puerto*

4 more militants slain

From page A1

members as John Gado and Celso Dimaculangan.

"They are the 112th and the 113th slain Bayan Muna members, (bringing to) 297 (the number of) activists killed under the Arroyo regime," De Castro said in a text message to the INQUIRER office.

He said Dimaculangan, 38, was shot in the head by a still unidentified suspect on Wednesday morning in Padre Garcia town in Batangas.

De Castro said the victim was a Bayan Muna coordinator during the 2004 elections.

Dina Capetillo, secretary general of Karapatan-Batangas, and Arman Albarillo, Bayan-Southern Tagalog spokesperson, identified one of the victims as Andrew, not Celso, Dimaculangan.

Gado, a member of Alyansa ng Magbubukid ng Gitnang Luzon-Nueva Ecija, was shot by a still unidentified assailant inside his house in Barangay Yuson, Guimba town in Nueva Ecija province on Tuesday at around 9 p.m.

And in Tacloban City, the regional chairman of Courage (Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees) was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen on a motorcycle.

Paquito Diaz suffered gunshot wounds in the head and in different parts of the body and was declared dead on arrival at the Bethany Hospital in Tacloban.

The shooting happened at around 8 o'clock last night in front of the victim's house on Magallanes Street.

The military though immediately denied any involvement in the killing and asked critics to let the police finish their investigation before pointing a finger at them.

Watching TV

Gado was watching TV in his home when he was shot, according to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

"Before the incident, he was attacked and abused by soldiers from the 71st Infantry Battalion under (Maj. Gen.) Jovito Palparan," KMP chair Danilo Ramos said in a statement.

In Lubao, Pampanga, four armed men shot dead Edwin Carreon near a military detachment on Wednesday night, making him the 11th victim of killings and abductions in Central Luzon in the first three weeks of the government all-but war against communist rebels, according to a leader of a militant group.

Aurora Broquil, regional chair of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, said armed men on a tricycle gunned down Carreon in front of his house in Barangay del Carmen at past 8 p.m.

Citing reports by residents, Broquil said soldiers from the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion did not respond to the incident even as their detachment was some 400 meters from Carreon's house. Policemen conducted the investigation.

Carreon was killed two days after soldiers took him and his son for questioning on alleged links with the communist army Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, Broquil said.

Rampage

She said the killing showed that Palparan and his soldiers were "on a rampage."

"While actively engaging in black propaganda to discredit farmers and fisherfolk organizations through anti-communist seminars and film showings, the Army has targeted civilians for harassment and even killings, by armed men on motorcycle believed to be from paramilitary groups," Carreon said in a statement

The KMP lamented anew the failure of government to stop the spate of killings, pointing out the irony that among the marching orders of newly installed Philippine National Police chief Oscar Calderon had been to check the murders.

"What is new PNP Chief Oscar Calderon saying that one of his marching orders to his men is to stop the killings of militants and journalists? From our point of view this is nothing but an empty promise and doublespeak," the KMP said.

But the police said it was "unfair" for militants to issue the remark.

"It's an honest intent of the chief, PNP to solve the killings—whether the victim is an ordinary citizen, a militant or journalist," said Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, police spokesperson.

Pagdilao said the militants' criticisms were unfortunate because Calderon had been chief for two days.

Weighing a hog

Capetillo said Dimaculangan was shot dead at close range by a lone gunman at the back of his house in Barangay Banaba at around 1 p.m. while he was weighing a hog he was supposed to bring to a slaughterhouse.

The suspect, she added, quickly left the area aboard a waiting van with an unknown plate number.

Dimaculangan was declared dead on arrival at the NL Villa Hospital in nearby Lipa City.

Dimaculangan, a baranggay councilor, is a brother of another militant, Fortune Dimaculangan, treasurer of the Anakbayan-Batangas chapter, according to the KMP.

The KMP immediately put the blame on government forces, saying the 402nd Provincial Police Mobile Group and the 28th Special Forces Company had charged Dimaculangan as an accessory to an encounter between soldiers and communist rebels fours years ago.

The case was dismissed, the KMP said.

"In the case of Dimaculangan, we have reason to believe that the 402nd PPMG of the PNP were involved in his murder," Ramos of the KMP said.

For her part, Capetillo said Karapatan considered the incident a "political killing."

The police, however, were quick to dismiss Capetillo's claim that Dimaculangan was a member of Bayan Muna. *With a report from Luige A. del Puerto*

UN to probe RP human …

From page A1

ment to invite him to conduct an inquiry into alleged repression of political dissenters and the media in the country.

"And you know very well that we have the universal peer review (by) the members, particularly of the (UN Human Rights Council)," Ligabo said in the video Madrigal presented at a news conference yesterday.

Madrigal, however, said special rapporteurs on various human rights issues like those on food and indigenous peoples had complained that the Philippine government appeared to be sitting on their requests for invitation to conduct inquiries in the country.

"Countries that are members of the council are supposed to give us unrestricted access in entering and to give an open-ended invitation to us," Ligabo said.

"The issue of the invitation to the Philippines will be a priority of mine," he told Madrigal.

The Philippines was elected recently to the UNHRC on the platform that it will improve respect for human rights in the country. The government's successful move to repeal the death penalty law was widely seen as a step in this direction.

Difficult to get invited

"If they are not hiding anything, why don't they allow the special rapporteur to come in? All the special rapporteurs told me that they are having difficulty securing an invitation to come to the Philippines," Madrigal said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, who joined Madrigal in Geneva to present the UNHRC with the human rights situation in the country, said the government may be trying to hide its human rights record from the international community.

"We can see that while the government is on the verge of conducting an all-out war on the New People's Army, human rights rapporteurs are being kept from coming into the country," Ocampo said.

He said that UN staff members he talked to had said that the country's permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva Ricardo Manalo appeared to be sitting on the requests for invitation by the special rapporteurs who want to look into the Philippine human rights situation.

At the news conference, Madrigal presented a letter dated July 3, 2006 from Jean Ziegler, special rapporteur on the right to food, asking for support on her bid to conduct a mission to the Philippines "later this year."

The letter showed that Ziegler made representations with Manalo on May 17, 2006 because of her concerns over the alleged threats to the right to food of residents on Rapu Rapu island, scene of two mine spills by an Australian company.

Cases presented

Madrigal said she presented Ligabd with such cases of alleged political repression as her being hit with water cannon during a demonstration in Manila, the government's calibrated preemptive response policy, Proclamation No. 1017 (which put the country under a state of emergency in February) and the arrest of Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel.

The senator said she also met with other special rapporteurs and presented them with cases of extrajudicial killings and involuntary disappearances.

Madrigal refuted the government's earlier statements that the United Nations would not give much attention to her allegations of human rights violations.

"(The government) said the UN will only junk these presentations. This (video) shows that the complaints were not junked," Madrigal said.

Correction

IN THE JULY 2 issue, a front-page article—"Tomas Claudio: Heirs struggle to keep hero's legacy alive"—misstated Jose Rizal's home province. Rizal hailed from Laguna—not Rizal province.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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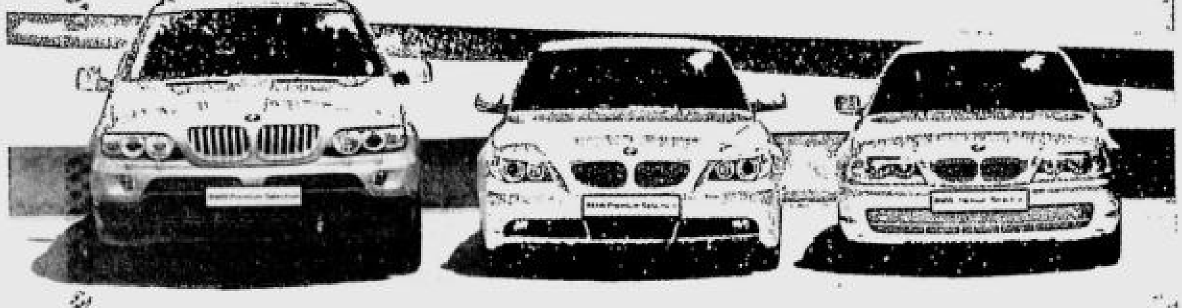

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316i (E46)	Black Sapphire	2003	49,181 kms	P1,200,000
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318i Limousine (E46)	Orient Blue	2003	44,000 kms	P1,420,000
318i Executive (E46)	Orient Blue	2004	31,475 kms	P1,750,000
320i Executive	Arctic	2006	3,900 kms	P2,350,000
325i Executive (E46)	Titanium Silver	2003	20,227 kms	P1,750,000
325i Executive (E46)	Black Sapphire	2004	36,098 kms	P1,850,000
520i Limousine	Oxford Green	2004	12,100 kms	P3,380,000
523i	Dunkel Blue	1997	82,000 kms	P1,100,000
523i Executive	Silver Grey	2006	7,000 kms	P3,800,000
525i Executive	Silver Grey	2004	17,463 kms	P3,600,000
530i Executive	Titanium Silver	2006	1,608 kms	P4,921,000
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'Nicole' points to Corporal Smith as her rapist

From page A1

before the alleged rape.

Ursua also made her recall the alcoholic drinks she imbibed that night, and which made her feel "dizzy."

Like family

But the complainant, a management accounting graduate of Ateneo de Davao, was also asked to relate how she and her family in Zamboanga City had learned to "trust" and make friends with American soldiers, particularly those who frequented the family-run canteen at the headquarters of the military's Southern Command.

Nicole said she served as the manager of the canteen, where her siblings also helped out.

"We treated them (the American soldiers) like family. We treat them well so that they will not feel homesick," she said in Filipino. "I feel safe with them because I'm used to having conversations with them."

She also said she had an American boyfriend, Brian Goodrich, a Marine based in Okinawa, at the time of the alleged rape. She said he was aware that she was going on vacation in Subic at the invitation of a family friend, US Navy Petty Officer Christopher Mills.

By the wrist

This was how the complainant recalled her meeting with Smith:

At around 8:30 p.m. of Nov. 1, Nicole, her stepsister Anna Liza Franco, Mills, and his liberty buddy identified only as Garcia arrived at the Neptune.

The sisters were then on their third day of vacation in Subic.

Before she encountered Smith, Nicole had consumed two glasses of Vodka Sprite, half a glass of Singapore Sling, a glass of B52 taken straight, and a glass of B53—all ordered by Mills.

She, Anna Liza, and Mills were dancing when a male foreigner on the dance floor "suddenly pulled" her by the wrist and dragged her away from her two companions.

Afraid, Nicole gave Mills a look that asked if it was OK for her to dance with someone else.

Mills told her: "It's OK, go on and enjoy." Then he turned to the man who had her by the wrist and said: "Just take care of her."

It was at this point in the hearing that Nicole identified the man as Smith.

Making conversation

Nicole continued her account thus:

She agreed to dance with the man and made conversation by asking him his name and age, his branch of service in the US military, and the US state where he was from.

All she could recall or make out on that noisy dance floor was that the man introduced himself as "Gerald or Genard," and that he was a 20-year-old Marine.

After three to four songs, Nicole returned to her seat because she was feeling tired. She and Mills proceeded to the bar, where she drank half a glass of Long Island Iced Tea.

"Then we (Anna Liza and Nicole) were dancing again, but I didn't know how I suddenly found myself dancing with somebody else (Smith).

"As far as I can remember, I was facing him, but he would try to make me turn my back on him. But I resisted because I always want to see the face of the person I'm dancing with."

Smith tried to make Nicole turn around three to four times. She could not remember how long that second dance with him lasted.

Feeling safe

At this point in Ursua's questioning, the lawyer had made Nicole say how dizzy she had become after each drink she took.

Nicole also said she actually "felt safe" at the Neptune because she also saw among the customers two to three US servicewomen she had met in the family canteen in Zamboanga.

After the second dance with Smith, Nicole said she forgot what exactly happened, but that she remembered drinking Bullfrog, another alcoholic drink ordered by Garcia.

She said she consumed half a pitcher of Bullfrog, straight from the container.

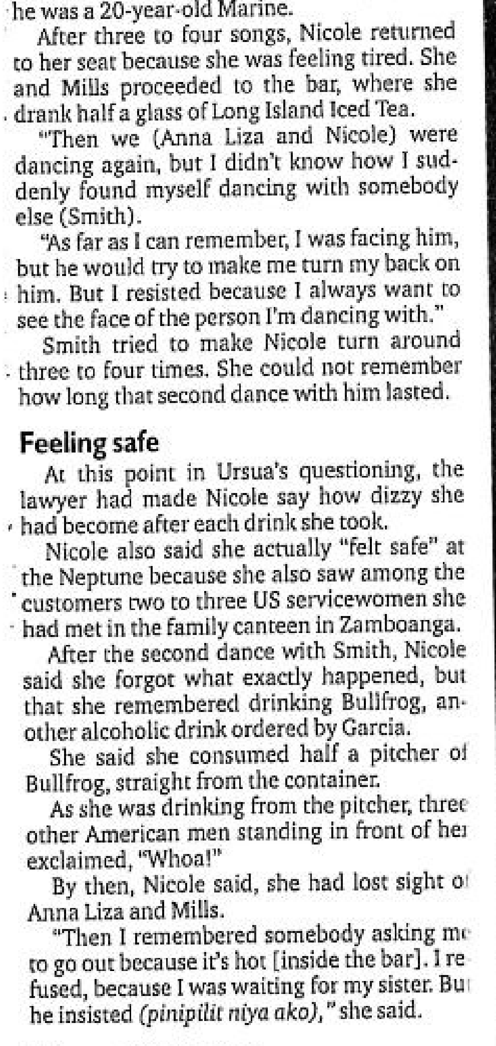
As she was drinking from the pitcher, three other American men standing in front of her exclaimed, "Whoa!"

By then, Nicole said, she had lost sight of Anna Liza and Mills.

"Then I remembered somebody asking me to go out because it's hot [inside the bar]. I refused, because I was waiting for my sister. But he insisted *(pinipilit niya ako)*," she said.

'He was kissing me'

On Ursua's questioning, Nicole said that "someone" was Smith. She pointed to the Marine for the third time in the hearing.



NOT JUST ANOTHER DAY IN COURT for the four accused (in photo Corporals Daniel Smith (foreground) and Keith Silkwood on Thursday when their accuser took the witness stand for the first time. ERIK ARAZAS

Nicole's memory turned hazy at this point: "Then I saw an ID but I cannot recall what I read [on it].

"Next thing I remembered, somebody was lying on top of me... He was kissing me."

"And who was that?" Ursua said.

"*Si Smith po,*" Nicole said. Then she bent over in her seat, put her head on the witness' table, and wept.

It was the fourth time in the hearing that she broke into tears, prompting Judge Pozon to adjourn the proceedings an hour ahead of schedule.

Betrayal

In an interview after the hearing, Nicole's therapist, Dr. June Pagaduan-Lopez, said her patient broke down not only because it was "torture" for her to recount the incident but also because "she felt betrayed."

This sense of betrayal overwhelmed Nicole in light of the kindness she and her family had extended to US soldiers who frequented their canteen, according to Lopez, who ministered to the complainant each time she broke down at the stand.

"I made her do some deep breathing and gave her feedback that she's doing well," the doctor said when asked how she managed to help Nicole regain her composure.

During those bouts of weeping, Nicole would put her head on the witness' table or on the lap of the female court interpreter seated next to her.

Mother's embrace

The first occurred 20 minutes into the hearing, when Ursua asked the first few questions on how Nicole's family befriended American customers at the canteen, and how she personally "treated" them. Her mother Susan was moved to rise from the gallery to embrace her.

Asked off-court why Nicole's narration seemed to have jumped from her dance with Smith to the point that she felt him on top of her, Ursua said: "You have to take into account that she was drunk."

The lawyer said that Nicole was manifesting "fragmented recall," and that the prosecution might need an expert witness who could further explain this condition in relation to rape.

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Is withdrawal of support a crime? House sets probe

By TJ Burgonio
and Michael Lim Ubac

BRIG. GEN DANILO LIM merely attempted to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo, he and his civilian backers cannot be charged before the military or civilian courts, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said yesterday.

Biazon, chair of the Senate defense committee, said that based on what transpired on Feb. 24, Lim attempted to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo but was foiled by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

"What is very clear [from] an examination of the statements of General Lim in that video clip [is] that there was an attempt at a withdrawal of support," Biazon told a press forum at the Senate.

The senator said that there was no "strong evidence" to support the mounting of a coup or a mutiny, or inciting to sedition, on that day, and that former Ambassador Roy Señeres' admission that he and other persons had encouraged Lim to disavow allegiance to the President ran along the same line.

"There is no definition, whether in the Articles of War or in the Revised Penal Code, of what constitutes the act of withdrawal of support," Biazon said, adding:

"Maybe the nearest thing to it is disobedience or disrespect to proper authorities."

Pressed further on what charges could be filed against Lim and his supposed civilian supporters, the senator said: "There is none."

He said that if Lim et al. were to be charged with withdrawal of support, Ms Arroyo and Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes would also be guilty of the same offense in connection with their roles in Edsa II.

Biazon also voiced the belief that the simultaneous leakage of the Lim video clip and the military report on the involvement of officers in the Feb. 24 coup plot was "designed to test the waters" (meaning the troops on the ground).

"They are simply orchestrated. The question is, who is orchestrating these revelations? Who is orchestrating them should be of higher authority," Biazon said.

Even the House is preparing to launch an inquiry into the matter.

Representatives Monico Puentevella and Edwin Uy said they were set to file separate resolutions asking the plenary to authorize the probe so that Señeres could reveal his knowledge of the plot under oath.

But the two allies of Malacañang want the DOJ to promptly file sedition charges against the ex-envoy and the persons he named.

"The House should dig deeper into this, and if it is true that these prominent individuals were behind Lim, they must be charged in court and the government must be on guard against them to ensure that they won't succeed in their bid to overthrow the administration," said Puentevella.

Uy said the House inquiry could help Congress come up with remedial legislation to insulate soldiers from politics.

"Those who pushed Lim to outright sedition and rebellion should be charged as principals as well. Seneres' identification of Lim's backers and financiers validated intelligence reports that the political opposition was involved in the grand conspiracy to oust the President during the Edsa 1 anniversary this year," Uy said.

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez, the former chair of the national defense committee who bolted the House majority at the height of the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal last year, said he believed that Lim, Señeres and the others should be summoned to Congress.

"I am instructing my staff to draft the House resolution," he said.

Señeres et al. face sedition raps, says Gonzalez

From page A1

tary Eduardo Ermita said the Department of Justice had been ordered to look into the culpability of Señeres and company.

"The [DOJ] will have to look into the legal liabilities of the people involved [in the case]," Ermita said on radio. "There are some people or civilian leaders that we know of whose [actions] we have been closely observing because they have been meeting in a lot of places..." *(Related story on page A1)*

Ermita said the DOJ had been "quietly" gathering evidence against the people involved in the failed Feb. 24 putsch.

But he did not name the "civilian leaders" or those who had supposedly been put under surveillance.

Subpoenas

The NBI Special Task Force (STF) unit headed by Regional Director Reynaldo Esmeralda has drawn up a list of those to be summoned for questioning.

In addition to Lim and Col. Januario Caringal, subpoenas will be issued to Señeres, former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Council on Philippine Affairs secretary general Pastor "Boy" Saycon, and Time Asia correspondent Nelly Sindayen.

"We are expecting them to appear at the bureau early next week after we issue the subpoenas," Esmeralda told reporters.

He said Señeres would be asked to submit a sworn statement on his interview with the INQUIRER, where he named a number of civilians, among them ex-government officials, as part of the failed coup plot.

"We are happy that [Señeres] enumerated the personalities for our verification," Esmeralda said, adding that the names mentioned by the ex-ambassador to the United Arab Emirates were "new."

Esmeralda said the NBI saw the need to summon Cojuangco, Saycon and Sindayen in light of the latest developments.

Caringal has called to confirm his appearance at the bureau today, but Lim has yet to do so, Esmeralda said.

The NBI-STF issued Lim a subpoena three months ago in connection with its inquiry into the Time Asia article implicating him and other people like Cojuangco and Saycon in the coup plot.

'It's a crime'

Gonzalez scoffed at Señeres' claim that Lim's backers, including himself, had done nothing illegal and that their act was a "patriotic" one.

He also said Lim's act could not be compared to Fidel Ramos' withdrawal of support from then strongman Ferdinand Marcos and Angelo Reyes' similar action against then President Joseph Estrada.

"Señeres said he was the one who instigated [Lim's action]. It's inciting to sedition. If it succeeds, it's a patriotic act, but if not, it's a crime," Gonzalez said.

He also said that even before Señeres came out with the names of Lim's civilian backers, he already had "similar" information.

Gonzalez said he believed that more people were involved in the failed plot, and that some of them might still launch moves against the Arroyo administration.

He added: "They are just underground. They are probably planning their countermoves. Snakes do not always attack, they wait for time. There's still a threat." *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

'Lim's video saved GMA'; junior officers wanted to storm Palace

From page A1

June, 2005, that Ms Arroyo had stolen the presidential elections a year earlier, they had gravitated around Lim.

"He didn't want any more violence, but the young officers were hot," said the participant in the meeting on Feb. 22—two days before what Ms Arroyo described in her proclamation of a national state of emergency as an attempt by a leftist and rightist "cabal" to unseat her.

By agreeing to appear in the video, Lim essentially defused a potentially bloody confrontation between rebel soldiers and forces loyal to Ms Arroyo.

"In a way, the video even did the government a favor because it helped prevent violence," he said.

The participant gave an account to the INQUIRER of the events surrounding the Feb. 24 incident and Lim's involvement in it on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of his position in the military.

Discussions went on through the night of Feb. 22, until Lim was able to dissuade the soldiers from resorting to violence to oust the 59-year-old President.

Earlier accounts pieced together and published by the INQUIRER said that rebel soldiers had planned three attempts to "strike right in the heart of the Palace."

The video

But intervention by the civilian component of the plan to get rid of Ms Arroyo managed to sell a nonviolent option—the military's withdrawal of support from the President.

It was the essential solution the West Point-trained Lim offered during the Feb. 22 meeting—one grudgingly accepted by the disgruntled officers.

The officers belonging to the Scout Rangers, Marines and the Philippine National Police Special Action Force dropped their demand that Lim lead the putsch and instead asked him to appear in a video and read a statement disavowing loyalty to his Commander in Chief.

Their plan was to join a civilian march on the Edsa Shrine on the 20th anniversary of the People Power Revolution that overthrew the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and then announce withdrawal of support from the President in a bid to force her resignation.

"All right, in good faith, I'm with you. But I don't want any violence. Let it be a peaceful march," the source quoted Lim as telling the junior officers.

Planned demo aborted

The lieutenants, captains and majors were to lead their soldiers during the planned demonstration on Feb. 24. It was aborted when Ms Arroyo proclaimed the emergency and police broke up protest rallies in the capital.

The source said the taping took place in the afternoon of Feb. 23 somewhere in Metro Manila. With Lim were less than 10 officers. They stood behind Lim, forming an imposing backdrop as the general read the statement severing ties with Ms Arroyo.

The source said Lim was furnished a copy of the statement only shortly before the television filming. It was reportedly prepared by someone else involved in the plot.

Meeting with AFP chief

In the evening, the source said Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin briefed Gen. Generoso Senga, the AFP chief of staff, about the "peace march" the following day during a meeting in his office in Camp Aguinaldo.

Senga was also told about the video, but the source didn't say how he reacted to it.

Later that night, following another meeting that also included the heads of the Army, Navy and Air Force, the source said the rebel officers failed to get Senga's unequivocal support. Senga was told that the junior officers would just destroy the tape.

The tape was intended for airing after the march to convince more soldiers and policemen to abandon Ms Arroyo, the source said.

The video never saw the light of day, until ANC television aired it on Monday night, stoking a controversy that had begun to die down, until the opposition last week revived an initiative to impeach Ms Arroyo when Congress resumes its session on July.24.

"In truth, there was really no coup," the source explained. "There was no plan to attack Malacañang, take over networks, or hit police or military camps. Lim prevailed upon the junior officers and they finally agreed to a peaceful march."

Defensor: Palace monitored De Villa, Tonyboy Cojuangco

From page A1

sador Roy Señeres' claim that the six were among civilians who had encouraged Brig. Gen: Danilo Lim, commander of the crack First Scout Ranger Regiment, to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo on Feb. 24.

"In fact there's no more need for an investigation because Ambassador Señeres has openly come out saying all these things and appropriate charges will be filed and possibly an arrest will be effected," Defensor said.

Señeres yesterday said he was ready to face charges. The former chair of the National Labor Relations Commission dared Gònzalez to sue him.

"I'll gladly face any questioning. Let them try to charge me and let's see who ends up looking ridiculous. What would they charge me with, conspiracy to commit an attempted withdrawal of support," said Señeres, who is a lawyer.

He said he was disappointed at the denials of Orbos and De Villa, who he said were among those who were into Lim's planned withdrawal of support.

Orbos, my idol

"I heard (Orbos) over the radio. He sounded scared. I did not expect that. He's my idol," Señeres said. "He should urge others to admit that indeed we encouraged Lim to withdraw support," he went on.

"I'm asking Rene de Villa to admit he was one of those who orchestrated the withdrawal of support," he said.

Señeres said he was still keeping the names of other "patriots" to himself, for the time being. Eventually, he said he would reveal the names of all those who belong to the "Party of Patriots."

'Patriotic duty'

In an interview with the INQUIRER on Tuesday, Señeres named civilians who had reportedly supported Lim to come out openly, saying it was their "patriotic duty" in the fight against evil.

While authorities will investigate Señeres' claim, Defensor questioned his credibility. "Ambassador Señeres is implicating people and it is difficult to believe him," Defensor said at the Newsmaker's Forum at the Manila Pavilion hotel.

Defensor said that previous reports reaching the Palace indicated that there were civilians present during the video taping of Lim's statement of withdrawal of support from Ms Arroyo.

It was only recently that the Palace got a report from agencies investigating the Feb. 24 incident that Cojuangco and Arillo were among the civilians present in the video taping of Lim's statement, he said.

But Defensor said that authorities still have to look into the "degree of participation" of the two.

ABC-5, Cojuangco disclaimer

"Were they just an audience when the statement was being read ... Maybe they were just there to listen, they were there to witness what was happening, and not as what Ambassador Señeres is claiming," he said.

ABC-5 yesterday issued a statement in which the television station and Cojuangco, its president, reiterated their denial of any involvement in the Lim video.

"ABC 5 also denies that it was ever in the possession of any such tape, and further denied that it provided the same to ABS-CBN," the statement said.

In the case of De Villa, Defensor simply said that he was monitored "going around and talking to people."

He reminded reporters that Zobel "was one of those who helped in the Marines' standoff in Fort Bonifacio on Feb 26.

Cruz's statement

In a statement, Cruz denied Señeres' allegation.

"In fact, at the meeting he was referring to, he came uninvited accompanied by a mutual friend in my residence," Cruz said. He said he was then having a "business partnership meeting" with Zobel, a friend.

"He told us that he had on his cell phone a recording of what he claimed to be an original copy of the 'Garci' tape recorded on his cell phone. We agreed to hear the recording so that we can compare other tapes appearing in the news.

"After hearing what's on his cell phone, he told us about his plan to form a transition government and was soliciting financial support for it. Bluntly, we told him that we would not allow anybody to use against the government.

"That was the last time I heard from Mr. Señeres," Cruz said.

More denials

Zobel declined to comment on Señeres' claim, said his spokesperson.

De Villa told ANC television he had been attending to personal family problems this year and had not spoken to Señeres.

Orbos likewise denied involvement in the Feb. 24 incident.

Asked why the government seemed slow in moving against the civilian backers of the failed coup, Defensor said it was important to verify evidence and determine the extent of their participation.

"I think politically, in terms of perception, people now realize that there was really something solid that had happened during that time," he said. He added that the President was ignoring the whole episode and was "focusing on her work."

Defensor said he was certain Gonzalez was looking into Señeres' revelations.

Noise in military

He reiterated that the airing of the Lim tape had created "some noise in the military front so we don't stand to benefit from here."

"The only benefit that we have is that history at least will look at this incident kindly on the President, that we were able to stop a coup from taking place, we were able to stop violence and we were able to prevent an imminent civil war," Defensor said.

Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said he was not surprised at Señeres' revelations.

"We had similar information but not necessarily the same persons," said the Army chief. He said he would pass on his materials to the justice department. *With a report from Daxim L. Lucas*

Palace, DOJ ratings in corruption survey fall steeply

From page A1

of them claim that their companies give bribes to win public sector contracts, the latest Social Weather Stations survey shows.

The 2006 Survey of Enterprises on Corruption reveals that 14 out of 23 agencies got lower ratings for their sincerity in fighting corruption in 2006 than in 2005.

The Department of Justice suffered the largest drop (33 points) from +13 to -20. It was followed by the Office of the President, whose rating plunged 25 points from +10 to -15.

Interestingly, Church officials got the highest sincerity rating.

The score of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, which was criticized recently for trying to reach a compromise deal with the Marcoses, dropped 18 points from +5 to -13.

The net ratings were based on interviews with managers of 700 small to large-scale enterprises in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Metro Davao, Cavite-Laguna-Batangas, and Cagayan de Oro-Iligan.

SWS conducted face-to-face interviews from Feb. 18 to April 27—a period covering the declaration of a state of national emergency by President Macapagal-Arroyo, and the subsequent arrest of some of her critics.

Customs lowest

The Bureau of Customs received the lowest sincerity rating (-74).

Others with very low scores are the Department of Public Works and Highways (-66), Commission on Elections (-59), Bureau of Internal Revenue (-58), and the House of Representatives (-40).

Except for the Commission on Elections, which was included in the survey for the first time this year, the bottom dwellers have consistently received negative marks since 2000.

Church rating

Local Church leaders received a rating of +71, followed by the Supreme Court (+40), Social Security System (38), Department of Health (+26) and city and municipal governments (+22).

The survey shows that solicitations for bribes last year were most rampant during transactions for local government permits and licenses, with 33 percent of the managers saying they have experienced it.

Twenty-nine percent said government employees had asked for bribes to facilitate the issuance of national permits and licenses. The same percentage of managers had been asked for bribes while paying income taxes.

Enterprises, however, rarely report the offense to authorities, according to SWS.

The percentage of managers admitting their companies give bribes to win public sector contracts declined in Metro Manila (from 52 percent the previous year to 46 percent), Metro Cebu (54 to 47 percent), Metro Davao (57 to 49 percent), and Cagayan de Oro-Iligan (65 to 38 percent).

The percentage in Cavite-Laguna-Batangas remained at 47 percent.

If reduced to S'gapore level

If government corruption in the country were reduced to that level in Singapore, more than half of the managers (56 percent) predicted their companies' net income would increase by 20 percent (median value).

Businesses expressed their willingness to contribute 5 percent of their net income to a program that could cut government corruption in half.

A big majority of managers are also willing to help government whistle blowers, with 77 percent saying they could provide a job for one.

Seventy-two percent said they could contribute for the whistle blower's protection, and 69 percent said they could give financial aid.

Receipts

As for the businesses' own practices, only 37 percent of the managers said companies in their sector were issuing receipts, while 51 percent said the companies always demand receipts.

Only 20 percent said the companies in their sector paid taxes honestly.

The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points for the Metro Manila sample, plus or minus 10 percentage points for Metro Cebu and Metro Davao, and plus or minus 11 percentage points for Cavite-Laguna-Batangas, and Cagayan de Oro-Iligan.

It measured corruption based on the perceptions and actual experiences of the business executives.

The survey was funded by the Asia Foundation, using resources given by the United States Agency for International Development. It was undertaken in partnership with the Makati Business Club.

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New chief's arrival triggers PNP shuffle

By Luige A. del Puerto

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OSCAR Calderon's appointment as police chief has triggered a major reshuffle in the country's biggest law enforcement agency.

Calderon yesterday announced the new members of the Command Group, the Philippine National Police's highest policy-making body.

Calderon said Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr. has replaced him as deputy chief for administration, the position he held before his assumption.

Deputy Director General Isidro Lapena, former chief of the directorial staff, will take over Razon's post as deputy chief for operations, effectively making Lapena third in command of the 118,000-strong PNP.

Director Antonio Billones, chief of the Directorate for Operations, will concurrently serve as chief of the directorial staff.

Other changes are in the offing, said the new chief.

"As we go along, there will be minor changes and reorganization," he said.

The Senior Officers Promotion and Placement Board is now studying possible changes in the command of regional offices and national support units.

"It's part of any growing organization. I would say there would be reshuffle. I would be looking for the right man for the right job. I would have more projects to implement so I would be looking for officers who can really implement my programs," Calderon said.

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CBCP split over second impeachment case vs GMA

THE INFLUENTIAL CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONference of the Philippines (CBCP) goes into its plenary assembly in Manila this weekend with its members sharply divided on the new impeachment complaint filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo and other political issues.

The new issue came up when one of its members, Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez of Caloocan, signed up as one of the complainants in the second impeachment case against Ms Arroyo, reviving the old debate on the separation of the Church and the State.

While Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro and Bishop Oscar Cruz of Pangasinan maintain that Iñiguez's act violated no Church doctrine, other CBCP members like Archbishops Ricardo Cardinal Vidal of Cebu and Ramon Arguelles of Lipa City are not as supportive of the impeachment complaint with the latter raising doubts on the motives of anti-Arroyo critics in filing or endorsing the new charge sheet.

"I believe it is a waste of time," Arguelles said. "Many believe that the new impeachment complaint is a weak case and will likely fail because they don't have the numbers." He added that the the "issues are marred with political ambitions" of some people behind the impeachment case.

Vidal had said Congress could make better use of its time by attending to propoor priority legislation.

CBCP members are meeting on July 8-9 at the Pope Pius Center along United Nations Avenue in Manila and are expected to come up with another pastoral letter that will likely tackle, among others, the impeachment complaint, Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical on Church-State relations, and the prelates' concerns over the recent spate of political and media killings.

Last January, the CBCP issued a pastoral letter declaring that the search for truth behind allegations of official corruption and 2004 electoral fraud should be "relentlessly pursued" through constitutional means. In a follow-up pastoral letter last April, meanwhile, the CBCP expressed reservations over the ongoing People's Initiative drive for constitutional reforms and reiterated its support for a duly-elected Constitutional Convention (ConCon) to amend the 1987 Charter.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 7, 2006
13th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**Am 8:4-6, 9-12**
Gospel:	**Matthew 9:9-13**

As Jesus moved on from there, he saw a man named Matthew at his seat in the custom-house, and he said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew got up and followed him. Now it happened, while Jesus was at table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and other sinners joined Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this they said to his disciples, "Why is it that your master eats with those sinners and tax collectors?"

When Jesus heard this he said, "Healthy people do not need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and find out what this means: What I want is mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Commentary

This is the heart of Amos' message: those who trample on the poor and destroy the land and live without justice, it is time to repent or else—God will visit destruction on the land and they will know famine, both of bread and water. All this because they have a famine of the Word of God. And Jesus calls Matthew—a tax collector—someone notorious for injustice and stealing from the people. Jesus has come for sinners, for those who live unjustly and selfishly. He is a doctor of mercy, careful of sinners, but resists those who are self-righteous. When Jesus the prophet looks at us, what does he see?

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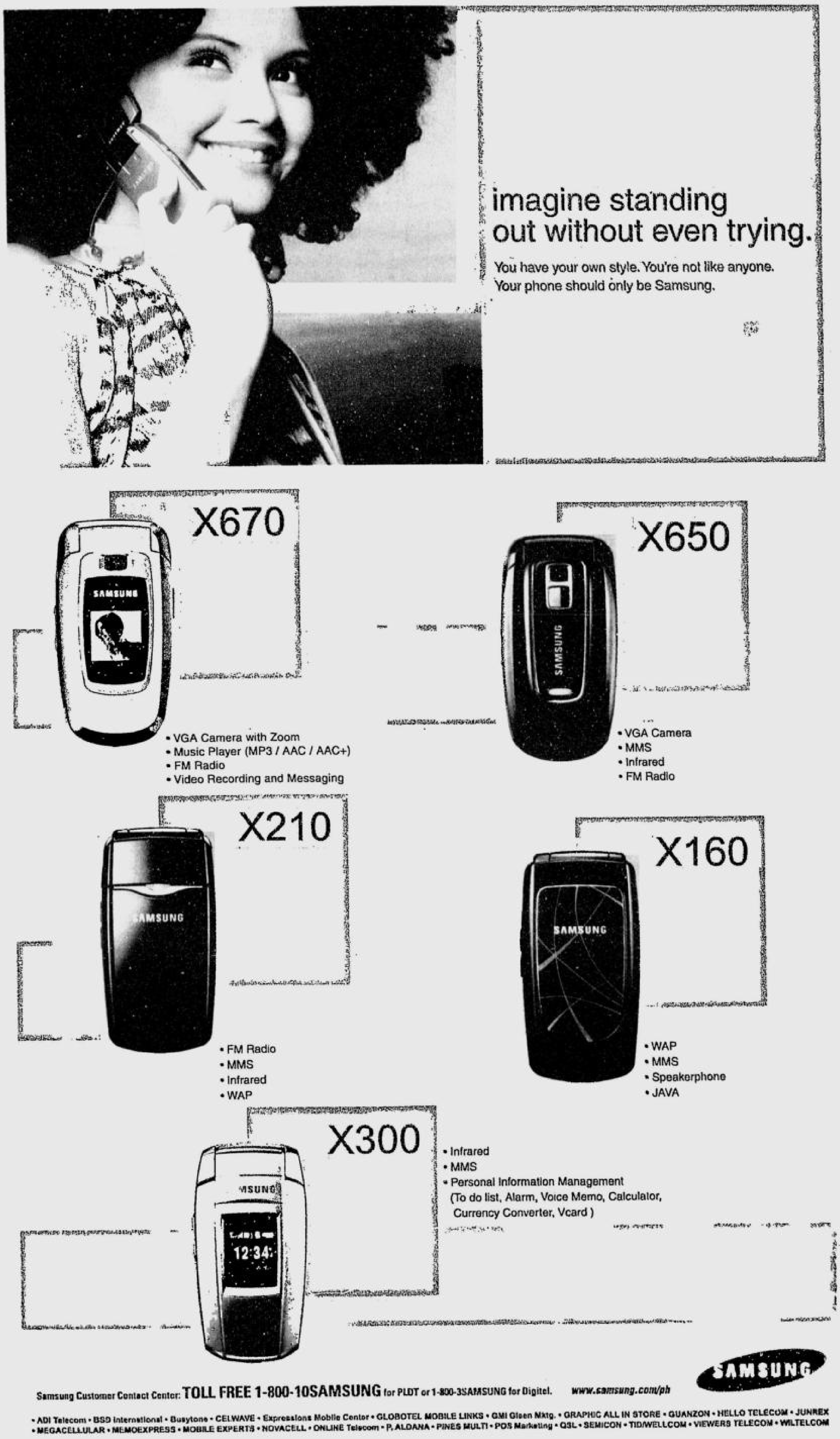

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N. Korea threatens more missile launches

From page A1

United States and its allies to prod the UN Security Council to take stern action against the North's seven missile tests on Wednesday.

In a statement made through the state-run Korean Central News Agency, the North Korean foreign ministry insisted that the communist state had the right to missile tests and argued the weapons were needed for defense.

"The successful missile launches were part of our military's regular military drills to strengthen self defense," the statement said. "As a sovereign country, this is our legal right and we are not bound by any international law or bilateral or multilateral agreements."

The statement did not mention the apparent failure of the most advanced missile fired on Wednesday, the long-range Taepodong-2, which security officials said aborted less than a minute after takeoff.

The ministry also appeared to confirm mounting fears in South Korea that the North was preparing for further launches. South Korean officials said intelligence showed continued activity at the North's missile sites, although at least one official said another launch was not imminent.

Pyongyang also vowed to retaliate against efforts to interfere with the launches, but it did not specify what it would do.

Pyongyang's tests pushed crude oil prices to an intraday record of $75.40 a barrel before easing to $75.19 at the New York Mercantile Exchange. Crude prices for August delivery further fell 13 cents to $75.06 a barrel in Asian trading on Thursday. The previous intraday record for front-month oil futures was $75.35, which was set on April 21.

Splits among critics

At the same time, however, splits emerged among the critics of the North's testing program.

At the United Nations in New York, China, the North's closest ally, and Russia, which has been trying to reestablish Soviet-era ties with Pyongyang, said only diplomacy could halt North Korea's nuclear and rocket development programs.

In a bid to coordinate strategy, US President George W. Bush held separate telephone talks on Thursday morning with the leaders of Japan and South Korea—his two top allies in the region—to consult on the North, but with differing results.

Japanese officials said Tokyo and Washington had agreed to push for sanctions against Pyongyang, while South Korean officials said they had agreed only to cooperate in diplomacy, with no mention of punishing North Korea.

Chief US nuclear negotiator Christopher Hill was to head to the region this week. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice also planned to visit South Korea in late July for talks on North Korea.

In addition, China's Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei told a visiting Japanese politician that he would go to North Korea soon to urge a return to the stalled six-party nuclear disarmament talks, Kyodo News agency reported.

The report also said that Wu had proposed bilateral US-North Korean talks, and said the missile launches were probably in reaction to a US crackdown on alleged North Korean counterfeiting, money-laundering and other wrongdoing.

The missiles, all of which apparently fell harmlessly into the sea east of the Korean Peninsula on Wednesday, provoked international condemnation, the convening of an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council and calls in Japan for economic sanctions.

Ready for firing

South Korean media on Thursday reported that North Korea had three or four more missiles on launch pads and ready for firing. But the Japanese government said there were no immediate signs of a long-range missile launch.

South Korea's National Intelligence Service "is closely watching the situation by keeping in mind that North Korea could fire a missile after repairing a technical defect," Choi Jun-taek, a senior official at the agency, told the National Assembly.

A South Korean government spokesperson, however, said another missile test was not imminent, adding it would take time for the country to repair the glitches.

The North has also barred people from sailing into some areas off the coast until July 11 in a possible sign of preparations for additional launches, according to Chosun Ilbo newspaper.

Patient dialogue

Despite the rise in tensions, South Korean officials said they had no plans to abandon their strategy of attempting to forge stronger ties with Pyongyang. While Seoul condemned the missile tests, it has also called for "patient dialogue" rather than sanctions in response.

"There is no change in the sunshine policy," Unification Minister Lee Jong-seok told the National Assembly on Thursday morning, referring to former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung's policy of rapprochement toward the North. Lee also said there was no need for the South Korean government to block personal exchanges between the two sides.

Bush has urged world leaders to stand united in demanding that North Korea give up its nuclear weapons program, saying the communist nation remained a threat even though its long-range missile faltered. The US administration said North Korea's barrage of seven test missiles further walled off the reclusive nation from the rest of the world.

Japan, within range of North Korean missiles, circulated a UN Security Council resolution that would ban any country from transferring funds, material and technology that could be used in North Korea's missile and weapons of mass destruction programs.

China and Russia countered that they favored a weaker council statement without any threat of sanctions. Both countries hold veto power on the council. *AP*

GMA calls on Pyongyang to stop missile tests

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday condemned North Korea's missile launches and urged the Stalinist state not to conduct any further tests.

"In solidarity with the international community, the Philippines condemns the missile tests of North Korea," Ms Arroyo said in a statement, urging Pyongyang to "refrain from further compromising the peace and security of the region and the world."

Ms Arroyo said the Philippines, a member of the UN Security Council and a key military ally of the United States in Southeast Asia, would "be at the forefront of supporting moves to ensure world security."

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, however, said that it was "unfair" for the United States and its allies to stop other states from developing intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and nuclear arms while maintaining such a highly destructive arms arsenal themselves.

The militant lawmaker, however, stressed that his group was against the escalation of tension within the Korean peninsula and the region.

"Basically, we in Bayan Muna call for the dismantling of nuclear weapons and ICBMs, and a stop to all testing by any state—including the US and other nuke powers," Ocampo said.

He called for the resumption of the six-party talks on the North Korean issue, saying a peaceful solution was desirable over a military option.

"It's best to keep the negotiating table open," Ocampo said. *Reports by Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Michael C. Ubac and AFP*

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It's Italy vs France in World Cup final

From page A1

semifinals of the 1984 and 2000 European Championships, will be making its second appearance in a World Cup final—the other was its famous 3-0 victory at home over Brazil in 1998.

France and Italy, which bested host Germany (2-0) in extra-time in the other semifinal, have a long history of tricolored battles. France rallied to defeat Italy, 2-1, in the Euro 2000 final when Sylvain Wiltord scored with 30 seconds left in injury time and David Trezeguet got a goal 13 minutes into extra time. France also beat the Italy on penalty kicks in the 1998 World Cup quarterfinals.

Unbeaten in nine straight games since a March 1 friendly loss against Slovakia, France started the World Cup slowly with draws against Switzerland and South Korea before beating Togo to get to the knockout phase. France then defeated Spain and defending champion Brazil to reach the semifinals.

A lot of stick

"People were giving us a lot of stick, right at the beginning," Henry said. "Now the only thing we can do is play as a team.

"I think it will be a tight game because the Italian team has the same way of playing as us. So we'll see us," Henry added.

Portugal, a 20-1 shot last December, advanced to the World Cup semifinals just for the second time. Eusebio, the star of Portugal's 1966 run, was on hand, as was former France captain Michel Platini, considered by many his nation's greatest player.

France's win ended Portugal's 19-game unbeaten streak since a February 2005 friendly loss at Ireland and coach Luiz Felipe Scolari's 12-game undefeated string in World Cup matches.

Zidane, the balding hero of the 1998 final, converted the penalty kick one minute after Carvalho brought down Henry about a meter into the penalty area and Uruguayan referee Jorge Larrionda pointed to the spot.

Zidane sent the ball just inside the post, with goalkeeper Ricardo Pereira diving to his right but was just unable to get a hand on it. The three-time world player of the year, who is retiring from soccer after this tournament, turned, yelled and clapped his hands.

No holding back

"He's worked hard solidly for the past month to be ready to play a match like this," France coach Raymond Domenech said of Zidane. "He played all out to reach the final without holding back."

Portugal had not allowed a goal since the 29th minute of its first-round finale against Mexico

"They're a great team and caused us a lot of problems. In this sort of match, it often goes right to the wire," Domenech said.

Six years ago in the European Championship semifinals, Zidane's penalty kick with three minutes left in extra time gave France a 2-1 victory over the Portuguese after Abel Xavier used a hand to block Wiltord's shot.

Portuguese players charged Austrian referee Guenter Benko, resulting in a six-month suspension for Xavier—who was watching Wednesday's match from the stands—and lengthy bans for two teammates.

Cristiano Ronaldo and Zidane were whistled by each other's fans in the crowd of 66,000 at Allianz Arena. The first 10 minutes were high-pace, with Deco taking a hard shot from about 20 meters in the fourth minute, and Willy Sagnol blocking Pauleta from getting to the rebound.

Maniche just missed over the bar in the ninth minute with a 30-meter drive off a pretty back flick from Ronaldo.

"We did defend like lions," Henry said. "After we scored the penalty, we did defend amazingly."

But then the pace slowed, and neutral fans started chanting "Deutschland! Deutschland!"

Evenly matched

"The two teams were very evenly matched for long periods," Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said. "There was nothing to choose between them. But when you are losing, you have to produce something special."

"Today we didn't so that," he said.

Henry nearly added to the lead three minutes into the second half with a shot that went off Ricardo's left wrist and spun wide of the post. Franck Ribery had a shot from the arc about a minute later that Ricardo pushed over the bar.

Ronaldo nearly created a tying goal in the 78th, when France goalkeeper Fabien Barthez—another of the 1998 heroes—let his 30-meter free kick bounce off his arms and up in front of the goal. Luis Figo, another world player of the year, had an open header that he sent over the bar.

Portugal reached the semifinals by beating England on penalties.

"We have got a good record in this World Cup. Almost nobody expected us to be among the last four, with a shot at the final," Scolari said.

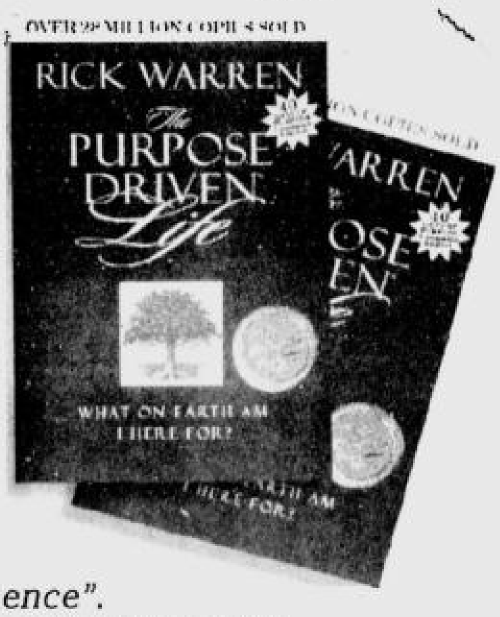
Former teammates

Zidane and Figo—rival captains and former Real Madrid teammate —made for each other after the whistle to swap jerseys and embrace.

Both will get another chance to play at this year's World Cup, Zidane against Italy in the final and Figo against Germany in the third-place match on Saturday.

For Domenech, it's time to get ready for Sunday's final at the Olympic Stadium.

"For now, it's just another match, the sixth we've played. And now we have the seventh," Domenech said. "It's only when we'll get there and we see the ceremony that we'll realize what we've done. But let's not rest now." *AP*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Guns of Maguindanao go silent

A WEEK OF FIGHTING BETWEEN MORO rebels and paramilitary forces stopped yesterday as officials mediated an end to clashes that threatened peace talks in the south, rebel and government officials said.

Jesus Dureza, the President's peace adviser, held discussions separately with some leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and local politicians in control of paramilitary forces to restore normalcy.

Dureza also toured temporary shelters in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, where seven people were killed on June 23 by a bomb aimed at the powerful governor, Andal Ampatuan, an incident that triggered the recent hostilities.

"We have an initial arrangement. We hope it could stop the physical fighting on the ground," said Ramon Santos, a retired general and head of the government's truce panel.

Buffer zone

Santos told Reuters the arrangement included the setting up of a buffer zone where soldiers, members of paramilitary forces and Moro rebels would be prohibited from carrying guns.

"We can't technically call it a ceasefire because there's already one in place since 2003 between the government and the MILF," Santos said.

"There will be no movement of forces, no provocative actions and an effort to end hostilities."

There were no reported skirmishes yesterday, a day after fierce battles erupted in Datu Unsay town as Moro guerrillas reclaimed areas taken by paramilitary forces early this week.

Mohaqher Iqbal, the MILF chief peace negotiator, said his group had been in contact with Ampatuan's camp to find ways to end the clashes that displaced nearly 20,000 people.

"We have no quarrel with the governor and we're willing to help in the investigation of the bomb attack," Iqbal told Reuters by phone.

The MILF has been negotiating with the government since 1997 to halt a conflict that has killed more than 120,000 people and hampered development of the south, which is rich in oil, minerals and agricultural goods.

On Tuesday, the MILF and paramilitary forces agreed to a six-hour truce to allow relief workers to check on conditions of civilians caught in the crossfire.

Residents complained dozens of houses were burned down and that crops and farm animals were destroyed by howitzer and mortar shelling by paramilitary forces since last week.

Santos said members of the government and rebel truce panels, accompanied by Red Cross officials, will tour the conflict areas to assess the damage and distribute humanitarian assistance. *Reuters*

1/3 of RP homes have no toilets

ONE-THIRD OF homes in the Philippines have no toilet facilities or proper sanitation, helping causing high rates of disease, the health secretary said yesterday.

Secretary Francisco Duque said more than 5.6 million homes were lacking the facilities, among an estimated 15.278 million households in the Philippines.

Duque told sanitation and local officials that this was one of the reasons diarrhea remained one of the top diseases in the Philippines, claiming the lives of 722 people out of 100,000 who become infected.

The latest survey in 2002 said that only 72.8 percent of the population had access to sanitary toilets, far short of the 86.8 percent target set under the United Nations' Millenium Development Goals, he added. *AFP*

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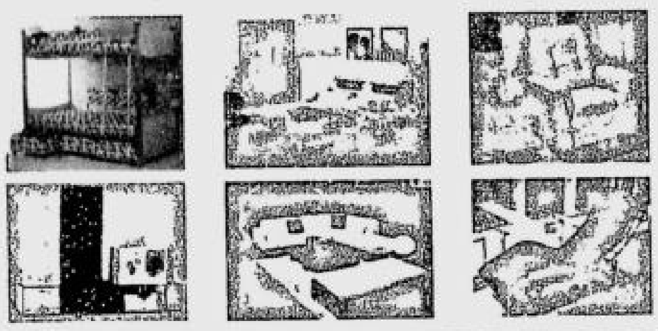

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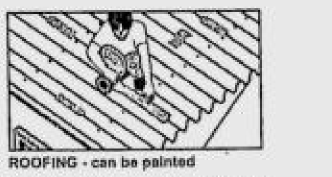

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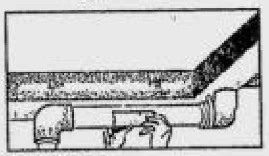

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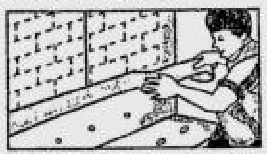

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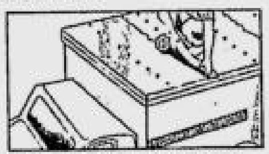

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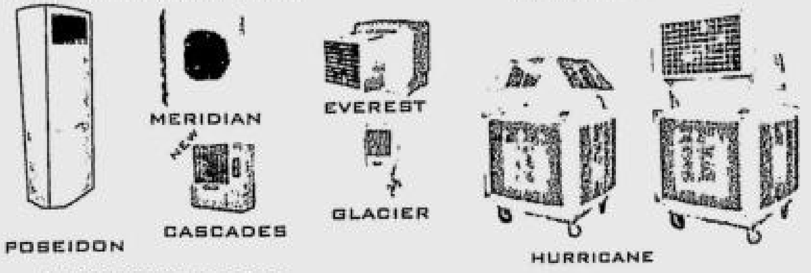

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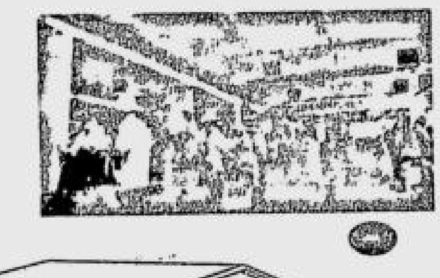

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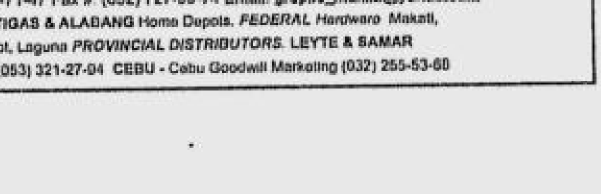

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Ombudsman sacks 3 NBI agents for raid

By Nelson F. Flores

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN YESTERday dismissed three National Bureau of Investigation agents from the service after finding them guilty of illegal seizure of the motor vehicles of a trading corporation, along with the cars' accessories, engines and spare parts.

Dismissed by Ombudsman Merceditas N. Gutierrez were lawyer Boye Pedro Mama, special investigators III U Rañolas Bahinting and Dominic Sarcon Cerro, all of the NBI-Sarangani District Office in Gen. Santos City.

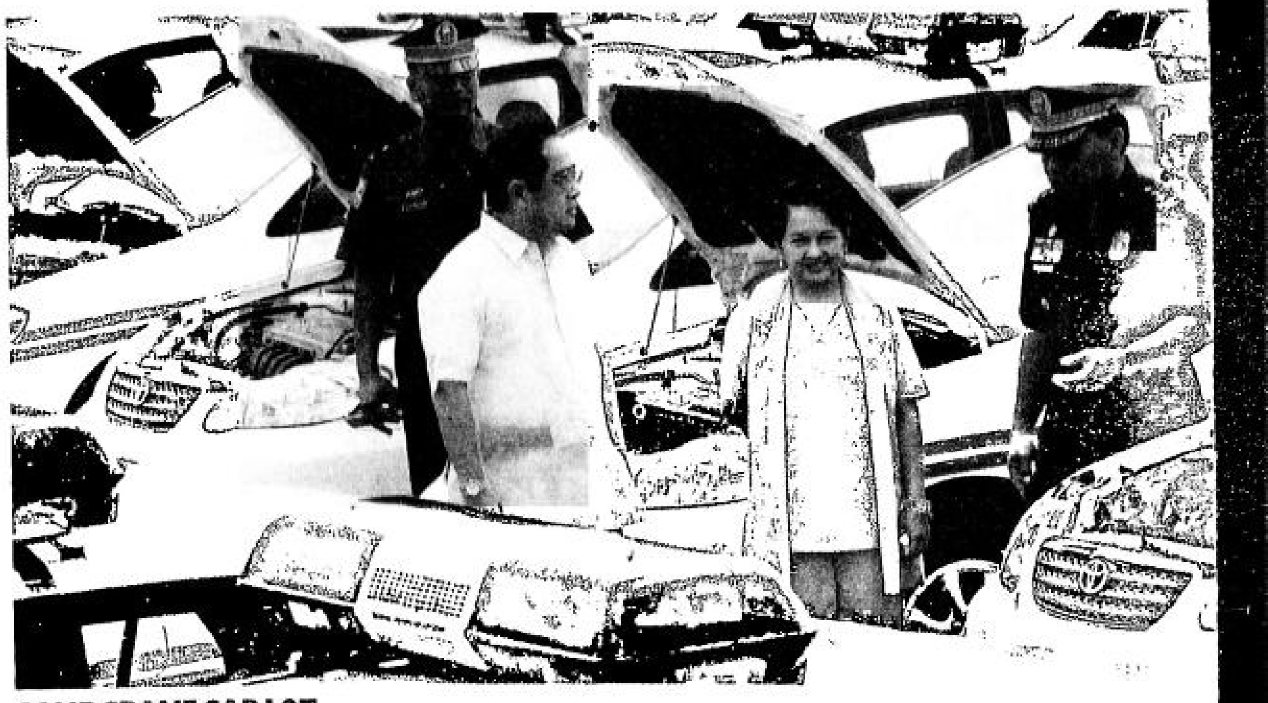
Aside from the dismissal, Gutierrez also ordered the filing of criminal charges against Mama, Bahinting, Cerro and Sanchez before a Davao City Regional Trial Court for violation of Sec. 3 (e) of Republic Act 3019 (or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act).

The three were found guilty of grave misconduct, abuse of authority and violation of Sec 4 (c) of R.A. 6713 (or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees) after administrative charges were filed against them by Seok Mi Lee, general manager and chair of the board of Seoul Motors Trading Corp. based in Davao City.

In her complaint, Seok said that the NBI agents raided her office on May 14, 2004 on the pretext of serving a search warrant issued by Judge Wenceslao Ibabao of the Davao City Regional Trial Court Branch 33 and seized 37 motor vehicles of which only two were later returned.

Seok alleged further that the NBI agents had no jurisdiction to search and seize the vehicles as they were holding office in Gen. Santos City and not in Davao City.

The agents, the investigation showed, did not give a detailed receipt of items and only put in details when they returned the search warrant to the court on May 31, 2004.



CAMP CRAME CAR LOT

President Arroyo looks under the hoods of the new police patrol cars accompanied by Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and Calderon.

It's graft-buster vs graft-buster in the office of Ombudsman

A GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER OF THE Office of the Ombudsman has asked Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez to act on a complaint he filed 10 months ago against a deputy ombudsman whom he accused of corruption, obstruction of justice, favoritism and even falsification.

Gilbert Bueno, a graft investigation and prosecution officer, had asked Gutierrez to investigate his complaint against Orlando Casimiro, deputy ombudsman for the military and other law enforcement offices, and to file appropriate criminal and administrative charges against him, if the evidence warrants.

In a complaint filed in September last year, Bueno accused Casimiro of conducting a "syndicated style of management" that penalized good performance and rewarded inefficiency. This he said, has caused demoralization in the ranks of the office under him. Bueno also filed a supplemental complaint-affidavit to support his allegations in December last year.

Bueno also named Human Relations Officer head Presentacion Postrado, Investigation and Prosecution Officer Eulogio Cecilio and several other members of what he called Casimiro's "gang" in the charge sheet.

Fake affidavit

He accused Casimiro of corruption for instructing him to approve the dismissal of a case (Fructoso Villarin, et al. vs SPO4 Francisco Torres, et al) on the basis of the complainant's affidavit of desistance that turned out to be falsified. He said Casimiro ignored his calls when he informed him that the affidavit of desistance was forged.

Bueno said he later learned that Casimiro's haste in dismissing the case stemmed from the fact that the retirement checks of the respondents would become stale the following day if they could not secure a clearance from the Office of the Ombudsman.

"The unconcealed over-interest of DO Casimiro in dismissing the case for the purpose of encashment of long issued retirement checks is grossly and flagrantly unethical," he said.

This, he said gave unwarranted benefits to respondents while causing undue injury to the complainants and was tantamount to obstruction of justice for showing partisanship in the dismissal of the case.

Bueno said this was one of the reasons why the public has acquired the impression that their office has become a "market place for resolutions."

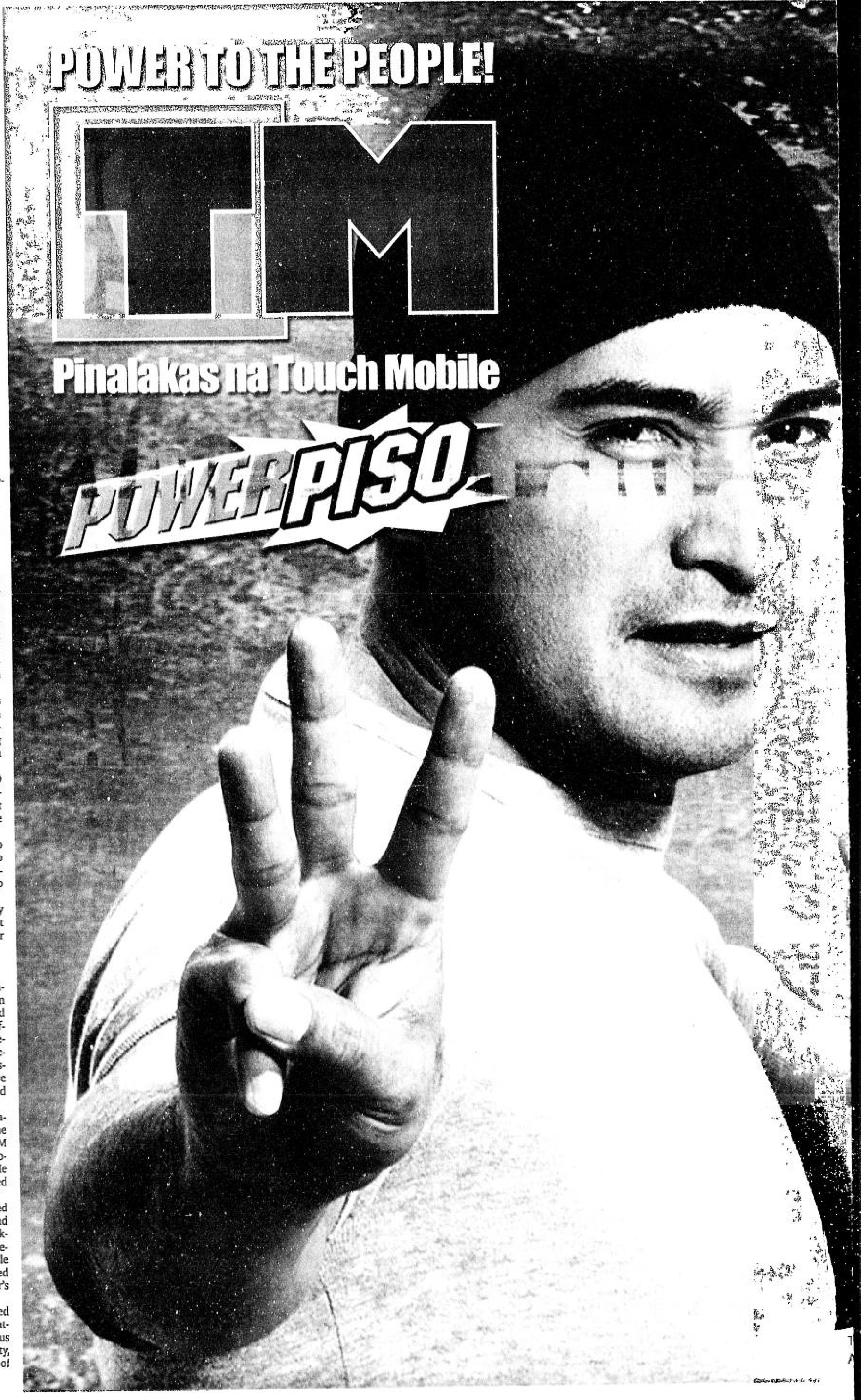
Lifestyle check

He also asked the Ombudsman to conduct a lifestyle check on Casimiro, whom he accused of acquiring unexplained wealth. His two affidavits, however, offered no solid evidence of the allegedly illegal wealth that Casimiro supposedly acquired to buy new cars, remodel his ancestral home, send his children to exclusive schools and buy lands in Dumaguete and Palawan.

Bueno also accused Casimiro of playing favorites and practicing nepotism, citing the case of Prostado who in her capacity as HRM officer was responsible for the hiring and promotion of her own daughter and niece. He said the hiring and promotion were approved by Casimiro.

In accusing Casimiro of favoritism, he cited the case of another graft investigation and prosecution officer who had acquired a backlog of some 100 pending cases and yet was rewarded with a state-funded scholarship while the more deserving officers were penalized with the burden of taking over the officer's unresolved cases.

In his letter to Gutierrez, Bueno expressed the hope that the matter would be investigated in an "open, impartial and expeditious manner" in order "to protect the integrity, credibility and respectability of the Office of the Ombudsman."



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newly installed PNP Chief Director Oscar

EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA inspects 200 new patrol cars

By Luige A. del Puerto

MORE THAN 200 PATROL CARS PURchased by the Philippine National Police without public bidding were yesterday inspected by President Macapagal-Arroyo in Camp Crame.

"These 200 vehicles are part of the P1 billion that we gave to the PNP to make its work in maintaining peace and security more efficient. Like I said yesterday, our law enforcers are very important in upholding the Constitution and the rule of law, which are, in turn, very important in our democracy," Ms Arroyo said in Filipino.

The vehicles are to be distributed to the regions, with Central Luzon receiving the biggest number at 21, the PNP said in a statement.

Senior officials made vague assurances after the inspection that future purchases would go through bidding, but maintained that their mode of procurement was within the law.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said Ms Arroyo was more concerned about how the vehicles would be distributed.

"She was asking [if] we can now say every police station has a vehicle. We will have to … check [our records]," he said.

As a rule

Puno said that as a rule, the National Police Commission of which he is chair favored public bidding—"unless there is a specific reason why it cannot be done."

"In the purchases made, it has been explained to us that there were some reasons why it was more advisable to undertake what they did. We do not question that as long as the provisions of the law are followed," he said.

He also said it was the PNP chief who would make the decision on whether to go through bidding or not.

But Deputy Director General Avelino Razon said that the PNP did go through a semblance of the bidding process, and that the acquisition of some P322 million worth of cars, motorcycles and firearms were made "in the spirit" of one.

Asked if the PNP would ensure that future purchases would go through bidding, Razon, former head of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), said: "Actually, to set the record straight, we did go through some sort of public bidding. A formal although verbal [offer] was made to different car dealers."

While only Toyota Manila Bay submitted an offer, other Toyota dealers eventually contributed cars, he said.

Like Puno, Razon said the general rule was to go through bidding.

"However, it should be understood that there are exceptions to the law. And if it will redound to the interest of the organization, if it will produce economy and efficiency, if there is insufficient time, then we can resort to negotiated bidding or direct contracting," he said.

Needed for summit

The PNP-BAC had sought to justify dispensing with bidding by saying the vehicles were immediately needed for the Association of Southeast Asian Nation summit in December.

But no mention of this was made in the PNP statement. It merely said some 354 patrol cars, command vehicles, troop carriers, pickup trucks, patrol jeeps and commuter vans would be distributed to the regions to boost police mobility and improve response time.

Asked about the procurement process, Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon, the newly installed PNP chief, responded by saying that his administration would "encourage the use of e-procurement."

"There is a procurement committee which will be in charge of transparency, and we will correct if we have overlooked processes. But I would say that the actions of the PNP were within the limits [of the law]," he said.

5,000 firearms

Razon admitted that the acquisition of 5,000 firearms worth about P151 million could wait until after the Asean summit.

"It can [wait], but again I would like to clarify that the process of buying the firearms went through the spirit of public bidding," he said.

Razon said the firearms were bought "essentially not only for the Asean summit but also for the day-to-day anticrime and antiterrorism operations."

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LAKAS NG GLOBE

Former Army bigwigs served eviction notice from Fort Boni

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE PHILIPPINE ARMY IS POISED TO KICK out a number of retired officials, including former military and police chiefs, from the disputed Joint United States Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) housing compound in Fort Bonifacio.

The 40-hectare JUSMAG area, with a market value of at least P12 billion, is claimed by a group of homeowners represented by wives of retired military and police officials who said they bought the prime piece of property for P11.9 million in 1991.

The claim of the Southside Homeowners Associaion Inc. (SHAI), which has been upheld by the lower court and by the Court of Appeals, was challenged by the Bases Conversion Development Authority before the Supreme Court.

The BCDA claimed that the SHAI's deed of sale and the transfer certificate of title were forged.

Despite the pending Supreme Court case, Army lawyers yesterday served eviction notices to the retired generals.

Perhaps due to the legal implications of the move, Army officials tried to keep the matter of the eviction notices hush-hush.

'Internal problem'

"All I can say is the Army has a problem with (the) JUSMAG (property). It's an internal problem and we don't want to discuss it," Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said in a phone interview.

"Some people might be mentioned and we don't want that. We want to treat it as an internal matter," he said.

"It's just mailmen serving notices of eviction. That's nothing," Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said, declining to give details.

But according to another source, members of the Army's Judge Advocate General's Office (JAGO) prepared and served the notices yesterday. Another officer who spoke on condition of anonymity said the target eviction date is on July 15.

It could not be immediately determined how many of the 106 housing units were served eviction notices. More than half of the units are occupied by retired officers.

Under military housing regulations, the families of officers who have retired, resigned or died have to leave their quarters within 60 days.

Big names

Several former top military and police officials have claimed for themselves units in the former US housing compound even though they have retired from the service.

Among them are former military chiefs of staff Roy Cimatu, now special envoy to the Middle East; Benjamin Defensor, special envoy on counter-terrorism; and Diomedio Villanueva, postmaster general.

Other prominent occupants of JUSMAG include former police chief Edgardo Aglipay; former military deputy chief and now defense undersecretary Ernesto Carolina; former Army Southern Luzon Command chief Alfonso Dagudag; former Army chief Gregorio Camiling; and former Air Force Tactical Operations Command chief now interior undersecretary Melchor Rosales.

Other prominent retired officers are former Army chief Guillermo Flores; former Marine commandant Ponciano Millena; former Philippine Military Academy superintendent Rufo de Veyra (J-26); and retired Air Force Major General Jaime Ileto.

The Army's move came after the Philippine Navy has successfully evicted some 200 overstaying retired officers and men from the Bonifacio Naval Station housing compound in Fort Bonifacio last May.

But unlike the Army, the Navy announced the names of the overstaying officers, which included three former Navy chiefs, in an apparent bid to force them to voluntarily leave the military quarters meant for active officers.

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Goosing the gander

EDITORIAL

CLARO M. RECTO FAMOUSLY SAID, "WHAT'S sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." That was his way of explaining the legal concept of estoppel. And now all the fire-breathing rhetoric from the administration cannot disguise how thoroughly estopped it is.

The full battery of arguments seized upon by President Macapagal-Arroyo and her staff concerning the Garcillano tapes can now be employed not only by her critics but by those on whose support she relies—such as the military's top brass, who are questioning the authenticity of the Lim tape (just as they deny the authenticity of the investigative report simultaneously released with the video). We detect a certain irritation over this on the part of Malacañang, but in truth, what can the administration do, engage in rhetoric? But unless it wants to further divide the Armed Forces, it has no choice but to submit to the AFP's version of questioning every fine point of authentication and verification, not only of the tape, but of the military's investigation—just as the Palace's own lawyers demanded with regard to the Garci tapes and during the first round of impeachment, and possibly with equally unsatisfactory results as far as the public is concerned.

Is it hypocrisy for the military to be less than eager to roll over and accept the Palace's logic, or for those being implicated in the Palace's version of events to insist on applying every argument hitherto used by Malacañang? Not under the law—and not, if the President is to be taken at her word, as she demands. She, after all, insisted she was prepared to be held accountable. The military brass, if they are to be taken at their word, insist on the same thing, and they seem determined on doing it Malacañang-style. The Palace gander deserves goosing by the AFP.

Indeed, in sensing an opportunity, the administration has opened itself up to a dilemma.

What the tape actually suggests is quite different from what the Palace wants the public to believe, which is, that the tape is an ex post facto justification for its actions. The tape, whether authentic or not, does not validate the President's proclamation of a state of national emergency. Proclamation 1017 has been declared legal by the Supreme Court—as an expression of the President's state of mind at the time. However, the Court ruled that what was done on the pretext of the proclamation was unauthorized, illegal and wrong. The Court decided that the administration set about harnessing powers and instituting policies that the proclamation neither justified nor allowed.

And neither the leaked document nor tape serves to support a central argument of the administration: that there was a "Leftist-Rightist conspiracy." If at all, it shows how isolated the Left was from the intent and planning of those supposedly implicated in the tape, its production and the motivations behind it. If anything, there was a "Middle-Rightist conspiracy," and it was far more extensive than the administration is willing to admit. In other words, the constituencies it has always trumpeted as solidly behind it have been far from solid. Former Ambassador Roy Señeres was actually on to something when he said, "If (the President) wants to put us in jail, let her try but she can't do it because we're too many." And that, not the wrongness of whatever it was—a mutiny, a withdrawal of support, or an actual coup—that Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim intended is what bedevils the administration to this day.

The tape, then, neither justifies the actions undertaken in the wake of the proclamation of a national emergency nor does it weaken the impeachment charges, which inquire into the President's behavior during the 2004 elections and the counting and her use of her powers since then. No one questions the right, even duty, of the administration to defend itself. It's the manner and means by which it's been doing so that is under scrutiny.

It could even be asked: If the Lim tape actually proves the Palace's premises were entirely wrong, what does it say about the ongoing policies of the President? Such as the Kempeitai-style *sona* and hamletting in the provinces?

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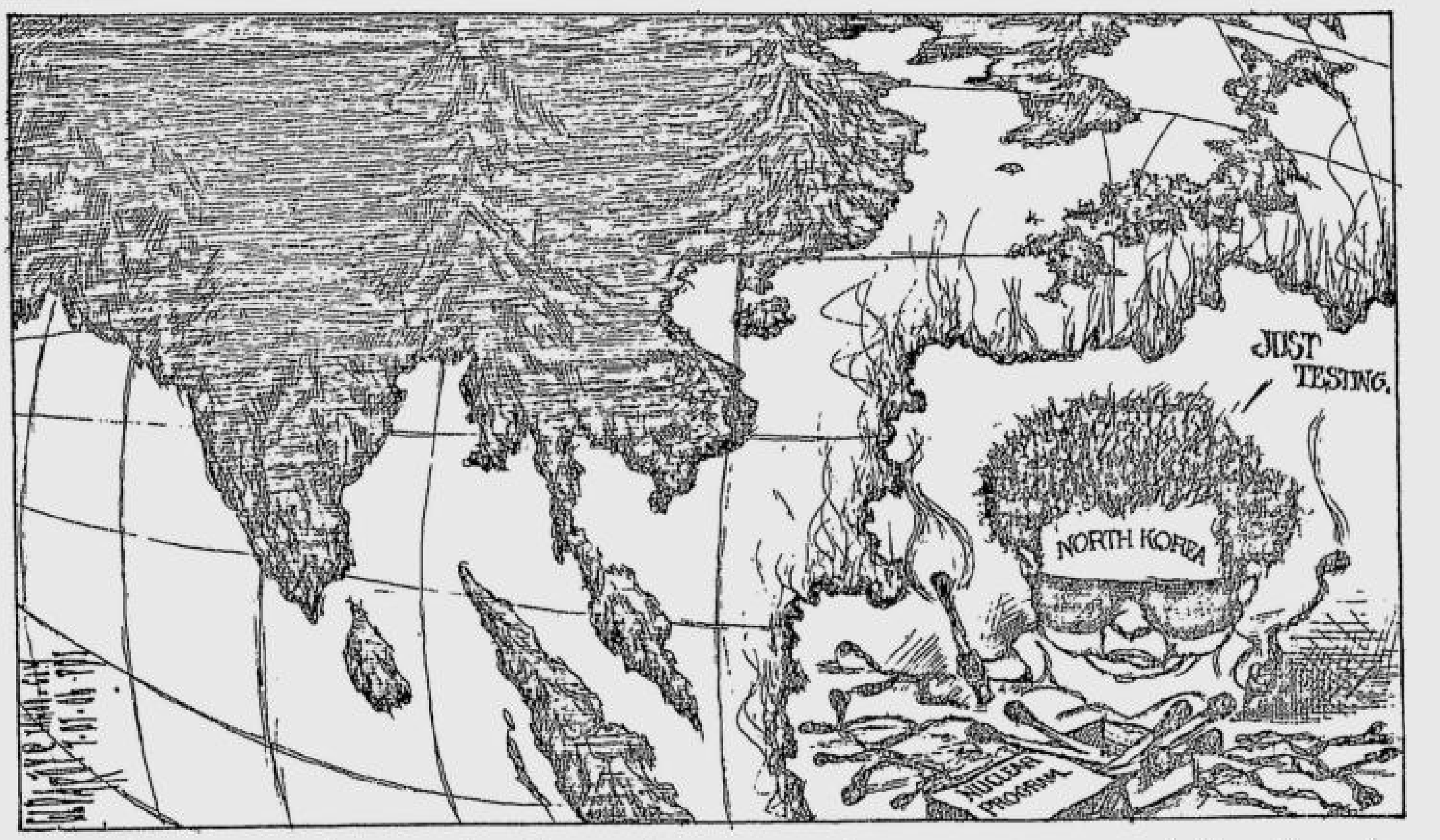

Violence plotted after impeachment was blocked

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE PLOT TO OUST BY FORCE PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, as told in the press, is the result of her refusal to face squarely impeachment charges against her. Instead of defending herself in an impeachment court, she resorts to all sorts of tricks and ploys to dodge the issues. If she is innocent or if she has sufficient justification for her actions, she should waste no time in proving them. By dancing away, she is encouraging violence.

As the story is being told, it is the military component of the plot that was impatient and wanted to use force. The civilians wanted a constitutional succession and fortunately they prevailed. But the whole thing will not stop there. The plot will continue, especially because the President has not changed her imperious style.

The administration may have the upper hand now because of the disclosure of the details of the plot, but the plotters will not stop. It may be a different group next time, or the same one after learning a lesson, but they will not give up just because the first ones failed. Our history shows that Filipinos don't give up easily. The many Filipino rebellions against the Spaniards took decades before the Revolution of 1896 succeeded. The Filipinos' love for freedom and hate for oppressors continued during the American and Japanese occupations and even up to the Marcos dictatorship. It is continuing into the GMA dictatorship, and she may end up with the others if she does not mend her ways.

The names coming out as among those who wanted to oust GMA are not only opposition politicians but businessmen and leaders from different sectors. What does this tell us? That the people who understand what is going on and fear for the future of the nation are fed up with GMA and her cohorts. The sooner GMA accepts this, the better. She has to accept the fact that she is very unpopular and seems to be making a lot of mistakes.

And those around her are contributing to her unpopularity by saying the wrong things. They say they do this purposely to draw the flak away from the President. But it doesn't work that way; the sins of her subordinates all go back to the boss. They don't draw the flak away, they concentrate it on her.

Alas, for as long as doubts about GMA's legitimacy lingers, instability will remain and efforts to oust a usurper will continue—through violence if the constitutional process is blocked. If the present impeachment complaints are again blocked through trickery and technicality, that won't be the end of it. The discontented people will look for other ways. And they will use violence if peaceful means is blocked. Sooner or later, a plot will succeed.

What's wrong with undergoing an impeachment trial? It is a process provided by the Constitution. Other presidents have gone through it and won (for example: US President Bill Clinton). US President Richard Nixon resigned before he could be impeached because he knew he was guilty. President Arroyo can do the same thing: go through the impeachment process if she is sure she is innocent of the charges, or resign if she knows she is guilty. The other choice is too grim to contemplate.

* * *

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the video showing Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim withdrawing support from President Arroyo has given the administration "confidence to use martial law powers President Marcos used." I think Ermita made the statement only to warn other plotters to desist from carrying out their plans. I am sure he has not forgotten what happened to Marcos even with his vaunted martial law powers and 20 years of strong-arm rule.

If Marcos was unable to save himself, how can GMA who is now very unpopular? As history has shown, whether here or in other countries, a mailed-fist policy never stopped opposition to an oppressive ruler. On the contrary, it only encouraged more opposition. As a member of a family is killed, or tortured or arrested, several more—his relatives and friends—take his place. Thus, oppression does not stop rebels; it only increases their numbers. And the new ones join the fray with more determination and anger. A mailed-fist policy loses the war.

The only time we succeeded, to a certain extent, in our pacification campaign against the rebels was during the administration of President Ramon Magsaysay. He quelled the Huk rebellion by addressing the problem of poverty and land hunger. He gave the former rebels land, opening up the hinterlands of Mindanao to be cultivated by them. The families of these former Huks are now prosperous farmers and landowners.

I am not saying that GMA should now give more lands to rebels. There are hardly any more lands to give away anyway. And the rebels now are no longer dirt-poor farmers but members of society discontented with the way GMA is running the country. What I am saying is that GMA should address the causes of discontent: poverty, lack of job opportunities, lack of housing, massive corruption in high and low places, a deteriorating educational system, abuses by public officials, etc.

GMA is not so ignorant as not to know these problems. Tax collections have increased because of new taxes and the government has more funds to address some of these problems. But she is squandering taxpayers' money to bribe congressmen, local government officials and private mercenaries to push Charter change and keep her in power—and to take her coterie of camp followers on junkets in Europe. How many jobs and homes could those squandered funds have made possible?

The ghosts of Edsas past

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

"TREASON DOTH NEVER PROSPER, FOR IF it prosper, none dare call it treason."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon asked the other day: What's the difference between Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim withdrawing support from President Macapagal-Arroyo in February 2006 and Gen. Angelo Reyes withdrawing support from President Joseph Estrada in January 2001?

My question is: What's the difference between Gen. Fidel Ramos calling on President Ferdinand Marcos to step down because of the tainted elections of February 1986 and General Lim asking President Arroyo to step down because of the tainted elections of May 2004?

The nation has embraced Fidel Ramos and Angelo Reyes as heroes. Why should Lim now be charged as a criminal? To find the answers, I suggest we look at how the Supreme Court has characterized the past upheavals.

The Court was candid about the true nature of Edsa 1—and this works to the advantage of FVR. The Aquino government was "revolutionary in the sense that it came into existence in defiance of existing legal processes," but Edsa 1 "signaled the point where the legal system then in effect had ceased to be obeyed by the Filipino."

The Court concluded: Cory's legitimacy was "not a justiciable matter [but] belongs to the realm of politics where only the people ... are the judge"—not the courts. In one fell swoop, the Court effectively absolved Cory of any transgression that she may have committed along the way—and by that token, cleared Ramos as well for calling on Marcos, his erstwhile commander in chief, to relinquish power.

But the Court did no such thing for Edsa 2. In fact, the Court went to great lengths to say that Edsa 2 was squarely accomplished within the bounds of the Constitution and that Erap, unbeknownst to himself, had in fact resigned.

"In fine, the legal distinction [is that] Edsa 1 involves the exercise of the people power of revolution which overthrew the whole government. Edsa 2 is an exercise of people power of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly to petition the government for redress of grievances which only affected the office of the President."

The Court wrote literally in bold font: "**Edsa 1 is extra-constitutional ... but Edsa 2 is intra-constitutional .... Edsa 1 presented [a] political question; Edsa 2 involves legal questions.**"

How then do we describe that fateful day in January 2001 when the chain of command between the commander in chief and his chief of staff was broken? The Court's decision may have legitimated GMA's oath-taking that noon of January 21st, but it left hanging the question of the AFP's withdrawal of support two days earlier. The Court gave its blessing to GMA who stood only to benefit, but how about Angelo Reyes, who placed his career and honor on the line to hearken the call of history? In effect, the Court called Edsa 1 a successful revolutionary ouster and Edsa 2, a successful mutiny-induced resignation.

What to make then of Lim's alleged call for the bogus president to resign? I suppose his lawyers will find ways to explain away the video. I have often lamented Malacañang's drift toward the narrowest and most legalistic reading of the law, but with the Lim video, I believe karmic justice is finally catching up with Malacañang.

The Palace maintains the fiction that it wasn't GMA's voice in the Garci tapes, but at the same time says that GMA had not consented to have her voice recorded in that conversation. And, mind you, more than half the Congress agreed!

The Lim video would now have to be proven as competent evidence just like the Garci tapes. Today, the Garci tapes remain unauthenticated, one year after the President's spokesman made them public, even if everybody and his cousin know that that was unmistakably President Arroyo's voice saying "Hello, Garci" and conspiring to rig the elections and intimidate witnesses.

Pursuing the Palace's favored line of strict legalism, we must parse the language of Lim's supposed statement to determine if it satisfies the elements of the crimes to be charged. Look at it this way: Remember that there was likewise a "smoking gun" in the case against former AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, namely, his Statement of Assets and Liabilities and his own letter to US customs authorities explaining the mismatch between his legal income, his declared assets and his real wealth. A court-martial found that he had perjured himself, but the Sandiganbayan—confronted figuratively speaking with a smoking gun, a signed confession, and a corpse—concluded, "Duh-uh, what crime?"

Finally along the Palace's trademark logic, if Lim's sin is that he broke the chain of command, then it behooves Malacañang to show a specific order that he has defied. His audacious "call" in that video is, in a sense, not truly "uttered" until it is shown to others by his assent or command. Whoever leaked that video must step forward to say so, and until then, the statement is, at least going by Malacañang's thin formalist reasoning, no different from the agonizing by a conscienticized soldier torn between his loyalty to the people and his oath to obey his commander in chief.

What should control is not the test of success, but the test of legitimacy. Both Ramos and Reyes were on the winning side of history, but the Court now seems caught between ignoring technicalities altogether as it described Edsa 1, and textual adherence to the law which it purported to see at Edsa 2. We must await history's verdict on whether Lim should clear his name by giving Malacañang a dose of its game of technicalities or, in the end, triumph by Apolinario Mabini's advice to Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, "Drown the Constitution but save its principles!"

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Mexican poll telenovela mirrors RP's crisis

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

MEXICO'S SIX-YEAR-OLD DEMOCRACY HAS been plunged into its first baptism of fire as it recounts the bitterly contested presidential election last Sunday, which produced inconclusive results, prompting the two leading candidates to claim victory.

The recount is causing a lot of nervousness in Mexico, its giant neighbor, the United States and Latin America not so much over the fate of its young democracy, but more so over whether Mexico would join the swing to Left-wing parties which has been happening in the region over the past six months.

Of more direct interest to Filipinos is how the Mexican electoral process resolves the political crisis caused by the early poll results, which, as of last Wednesday, showed leftist candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, former mayor of Mexico City, taking a slim lead of about 2.6 percentage points. Early results of the recount show that Lopez Obrador of the Party of Democratic Revolution had 37.02 percent of the vote based on the returns from 40 percent of polling stations, while Felipe Calderon of the ruling National Action Party got 34 percent. Calderon, last Tuesday, claimed victory by a margin of 402,000 votes, or just over 1 percent, based on preliminary results released by the Federal Electoral Institute. That tally had him winning 36.38 percent of the vote, compared with 35.34 percent for Lopez Obrador.

Lopez Obrador immediately demanded a ballot-by-ballot recount, claiming widespread irregularities. "With such a close result, counting just part of the votes could cast a shadow of doubt," he said. "The stability of the country is at stake."

Lopez Obrador has a history of leading street protests, raising fears of mass demonstrations and legal challenges in the courts unless the impasse is resolved by the electoral institute. The recount that began last Wednesday starts the process of verification of the results but not necessarily the recount of the 41 million votes cast. Democratic Revolution Party leaders said, "We are going to launch a battle for the legitimacy of the election."

If we hold a mirror to the Mexican elections, we could easily see a reflection of the flaws of our electoral system and their potential for generating political impasse and crisis. The Mexican elections are the first withering test of their democracy, stirring up memories of what happened only six years ago, when the National Action Party of outgoing President Vicente Fox ended 71 years of monopoly of power by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which had turned Mexico into a single-party state.

To think that the main issue of the Mexican elections is the integrity of its electoral process is a narrow view. It would miss the point that the elections have important ideological and policy dimensions represented by the contrasting ideological outlooks or world views of Lopez Obredor and Calderon, cutting a Left-Right dichotomy in a society where the gap between the rich and the poor is as wide as in the Philippines. If the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Fernando Poe Jr. race was very close, it was also more of a personality contest rather than a choice between policy alternatives.

Calderon, a Harvard-educated lawyer and environment minister of the Fox government, has presented himself as championing the cause of continued opening of the country to the global economy with free trade reforms. He has accused Lopez Obrador of following in the footsteps Hugo Chavez, the Left-wing president of Venezuela, whose nationalist and populist policies are causing nervousness in Washington.

Lopez Obrador is a populist who styles himself as a champion of the poor. He plans to invest heavily on infrastructure to reduce unemployment and promises to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement in Mexico's favor. His big public spending proposal has raised fears that the country would be plunged into renewed economic chaos.

Lopez Obrador, a charismatic politician in contrast to the bland, technocratic Calderon, has promised to cut his salary by half if elected, raise pensions, institute free universal health care and put more money into education. Instead of raining taxes, he said he would remove some monopolies favoring the wealthy.

It is these programs that have raised concerns among the American press. The Chicago Tribune said, "His populist campaign capitalizes on long-standing bitterness over the gulf between Mexico's rich and poor… But his spending proposals could spell a return to the inflation and runaway debt that plagued the country in the 1970s and 1980s."

A New York Times commentator said a Lopez Obrador presidency "could usher in a form of Latin American Leftism as yet unseen: messianic populism." A Guardian commentator in London said a Lopez Obrador victory would put "Latin America's much talked about leftward march—through Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia and Chile" right at the doorsteps of the United States. It added: "Not that there is much uniformity among the region's Left-wing leaders, from the pugnacious bravado of Hug Chavez in Venezuela to the eminently reasonable Michelle Bechelet in Chile. Most observers put Lopez Obrador somewhere in the middle."

The BBC noted that a win by Lopez Obrador "would send alarm bells ringing in the White House, fearful that the victor could emulate Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and challenge its regional dominance."

The leftist tide of electoral politics in Latin America stands in stark contrast to the shift farther to the Right of a Philippine regime that is engaged in an "all-out war" with the communist insurgency.

Nukes for some, not for others?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SURPRISINGLY, A FOREIGN NEWS ITEM LED the early evening newscast "24 Oras" the other night, a rarity worthy of comment since foreign news on TV is usually confined to a few seconds' round-up that consists mainly of oddities, accidents and natural disasters.

Then again, this wasn't yet another hiccup in the seemingly endless Arab-Israeli conflict, or yet another massacre in Iraq. And it took place sufficiently near the Philippines to raise alarms even among Filipinos who are notoriously parochial.

The event that merited top mention on TV news, and an above-the-banner headline in this paper the next day, was the launch of six missiles into the Sea of Japan by North Korea. For months, Washington had been huffing and puffing about the threat presented by North Korea, with US President George Bush warning the so-called "rogue" state that a North Korean missile launch is "unacceptable" and would further isolate it from the world community. This led to some suggestions among Hawks in the US government that it launch a "preemptive strike" against the communist regime, which provoked a counter-threat from Pyongyang that it would respond with an "annihilating strike and a nuclear war."

Two days later, on the Fourth of July, in fact, North Korea test-fired its missiles, all of which landed harmlessly in the Sea of Japan (though the Japanese government has expressed concern about the effects of possible radiation), miles away from its nearest possible target (Japan).

Reactions, of course, have been swift and unequivocal. The United States, South Korea and Japan immediately scrambled to strengthen their missile defenses, while American diplomats embarked on a flurry of diplomatic responses, from condemning the tests, appealing to the United Nations Security Council to censure Pyongyang, and urging North Korea to re-join the stalled six-party talks on nuclear arms control.

Is this "provocative" act but an introduction to a global conflagration? Will North Korean long-rage missiles next target the United States—possibly Alaska? Or is there another story behind the test launch?

* * *

THERE are some who believe the missile launches and all the bluster from Pyongyang are mere bluffing, a way of calling attention to itself and giving it the advantage in bargaining for oil, food and arms.

With the Cold War supposedly over and concerns about Islamist terrorism preoccupying Washington, perhaps North Korea felt it needed to wave the red flag of a nuclear threat to keep US attention. US National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley even told reporters that the launches "might have been a Pyongyang attempt to steal the spotlight away from Iran, which had been the main focus of US nuclear diplomacy in recent months." Said Hadley: "Obviously, it is a bit of an effort to get attention, perhaps because so much attention has been focused on the Iranians."

If so, how should the world react to the missiles? The military and diplomatic alert raised by the six missiles is precisely the kind of reaction that North Korea anticipated, if Hadley read the scenario right. Do we give Pyongyang what it wants? Or should North Korea's neighbors merely shrug and dare Kim Jong-il to "bring it on"?

* * *

ACTUALLY, the Philippines is very much within the danger zone. A map on this paper's front page shows that our country is just 4,000 km from North Korea, well within the maximum 15,000-km range of the communist state's most powerful missile. But even before the missiles start heading for here, they will be passing by Japan and Taiwan, and of course South Korea, which is but a short stroll across the border in Panmunjon.

Analysts were hard put "reading" the real motivations of the North Korean leadership, particularly Kim Jong-il who's been painted as an unstable, unpredictable dictator with whom it's impossible to negotiate or even appeal to reason.

But North Korea's recent actions is also the result of a double-edged policy created and nurtured by the United States, which maintains that while nuclear arms proliferation is a "bad" idea, it's not so bad, and in fact should be encouraged, among America's friends. So while it's "criminal" of Iran to be buying radioactive material which could allow it to develop nuclear arms, it's perfectly all right for Israel to develop and keep its own nuclear weapons.

In an earlier interview, Dr. Gerd Leipold, international executive director of Greenpeace, laid responsibility for the lingering threat of nuclear arms on America's doorstep. "The US has been doubly irresponsible," said Leipold, who began his career with Greenpeace as an anti-nukes protester. "It had the chance soon after World War II to abolish all nuclear weapons, instead it decided to pursue the nuclear option and even allow some countries, particularly 'friendly' countries to develop nuclear weaponry, while seeking to prevent other countries deemed 'unfriendly' from using the same technology."

* * *

"THIS has led to the present unstable situation," Leipold pointed out. He noted how the Bush administration had scuttled talks on arms limits which had been proceeding apace during the Clinton administration.

What peace advocates and "nukies" have long been saying, in fact, is that nuclear weapons present a risk to world peace wherever they can be found—in North Korea, in Pakistan or even buried beneath mountains in the continental United States.

How can one country, like the United States, effectively negotiate the dismantling of the nuclear arms program of another, like North Korea or Iran, when it has its own nuclear proliferation policy and has been willing to share the goods with allies? In arms talks, as in any negotiation, moral ascendancy is a necessity.

Rats and mosquitoes

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

SIMPLICITY OF LIFE IS AN IDEAL I CHASE after every day. In my present, hopefully temporary, job, there is far too much *sosyalan* that requires a ready smile, a new outlook and wardrobe. My staff often chase after me with scissors to cut loose threads from a frayed *barong*, discreetly cutting off the eyesores before I shake hands with a visiting ambassador.

Simplicity also extends to my working habits. I'm not so obsessed with owning rare, first editions of books if I can consult a clear photocopy.

No need to pay a high price and suffer an allergic reaction for an old book when I can use a scanned copy on a CD-ROM. It used to be one of my dreams to be able to carry my entire library in a shoe box, but then one needs a microfilm reader or computer for this, and these are not available in the mythical desert islands where one will be stranded on. There is still the joy that comes with physically handling an old book, wondering who had previously owned and read it. I used to give away autographed, 19th-century books to people who shared my interest in them, and today I regret it.

I used to own an autographed copy of "Yesterdays in the Philippines" by Joseph Earle Stevens who lived in Manila from 1893-1895 and published his impressions of the Philippines and the Filipinos at the turn of the last century. I gave the original away because I had a copy of the book on CD-ROM. I truly regret that now.

Reading this book a century later, as we celebrate Filipino-American Friendship Day, makes one wonder how much or how little life has changed despite modern appliances, new architecture and the advances in technology. We may have electricity and the Internet today, but there are certain things that remain: mosquitoes, rats, noisy cats, lizards on the walls, even snakes. Stevens wrote:

"You have asked me how the mosquitoes fare upon the newly arrived foreigner. To tell the truth, I have not seen more than half a dozen since coming to Manila, and all those sang in tune. Everyone sleeps under nettings [*kulambo*], of course, but so far I have not seen any biters flying around at night as there are in the United States of America. To be sure, one sees a good many lizards hanging by the eye-teeth to the walls, or walking about unconcernedly, upside-down on the ceilings, but they do good missionary work by devouring the host if smaller bugs, and it is one of our highest intellectual pursuits here in Manila to stretch out in a long chair and go to sleep gazing upward at these enterprising bug-catchers pursuing their vocation. And, now and then from some piazza-roof or ceiling will drop on your face a so-called hairy caterpillar [*higad*] whose promenade on one's epidermis will cause it to swell up in great welts that close one's eyes and ruffle the temper."

Like Stevens, I also enjoy watching lizards and catching flies and bugs and would spend hours and hours of fun in the dining table hoping they have a good meal, too. Rats or mice we rarely see, but their handiwork from holes in the clothes to half-eaten candy.dragged out of a box leave us weak and disgusted. Stevens wrote:

"Rats are more numerous than mosquitoes, and the other day, on my opening a drawer in some of our office furniture, three jumped out. The office was transformed into an impromptu racecourse, and all hands were called to take part in the slaughter. But Manila doors are loose-jointed, and the rodents escaped somewhere into the next room. Since then I have had the legs sawed off my desk, so that these literary beggars, who delight to eat up one's valuable papers, should not climb in and make a meal off my private cable code—a thing which they started to do some time ago. They have already several times run off with the candle which was used for heating sealing wax, and possess such prowess that they even took it out of the candlestick."

The rats in our former home were so huge they could run off with a whole bag of sliced bread and hide these in the back of the unused oven. By their sheer size, they probably scared the cats, too. We could not use poisons or traps because we had small dogs that were similarly useless when it came to rats. We called in pest control firms and they gave up, too (without returning our money). At one point I was tempted to use the rat solution described by Stevens but no one in our household would agree to it. Here it is for those brave or desperate enough to try:

"Nearly all the older bungalows in Manila possess what are called house-snakes, huge reptiles generally about twelve or fourteen feet long and as thick as a fire-engine hose, that permanently reside up in the roof and live on the rats. These big creatures are harmless, and rarely, if ever, leave their abodes. Judging from the noise over my cloth ceiling, a pair of these pets find pasturage above, and I can hear them whacking around about once a week in their chase after rats. They are good enough though noisy rat-catchers, but since they catch only what they need, their efficiency seems to be limited to their length of stomach, and one night of energetic campaign is generally followed by several days of rest. The only way to get rid of the rats seems to be to buy more snakes."

This seems to be an environment-friendly though drastic solution to a rat problem.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

'Bastos'

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHILE CONDUCTING RESEARCH on young adult Filipinos' sexuality, I realized how important the word "*bastos*" was to young people.

Applied to sexual matters, "*bastos*" meant "lewd" and "obscene." Quite often, the word would be used as a kind of blanket censorship that reinforced the culture of silence we have about sexuality. Sex in general was seen as *bastos* and therefore not suitable for conversations, at least not between elders and the young.

At another level, however, the term made sexual matters more alluring. Anyone knowledgeable about sex—in theory or in practice—would be called *bastos* in a tone that mixed a bit of mock contempt with grudging admiration.

The concept of *bastos* as lewdness tends to sidetrack a more important core meaning of the word, which is disrespect. "*Binastos ako*" means that someone has been disrespectful to us, and this can mean both sexual and non-sexual matters, and could be through words, deeds, or even a whole demeanor, as when a child gives that "*dedma*" posture in response to a parent's sermon.

I think we need to move *bastos* away from a proscriptive, admonishing term toward one which emphasizes ethics, particularly respect for others. Let me cite two examples, from current events, to explain my point.

Bikini

Last Wednesday, July 5, was the 60th anniversary of the bikini. I always thought the name had something to do with its being a two-piece outfit (thus, "bi") but it turns out its innovator, the French designer Louis Reard, had gotten the name from Bikini Atoll out in the South Pacific, where the United States had conducted its first nuclear tests in June 1946.

Reard's bikini, made of three triangular patches of cloth held together with ties, was as earth-shaking as the nuclear tests. Moralists and prudes quickly reacted. The bikini was banned in several countries and even by some French town mayors. Acceptance came slowly. A song made waves in 1960 with the title "Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini" and helped to boost sales. In 1962, Ursula Andress wore a bikini in the James Bond thriller "Dr. No." And in 1964, the American magazine Sports Illustrated first used a bikini-clad model on its front cover.

Over time, the bikini has been analyzed and re-analyzed by social scientists for its social meanings. For some of the more feminist-oriented, the bikini represents the commodification of the female body, exposing as much skin as possible for male gratification. Paradoxically, the bikini can also be seen as an icon of sexual liberation, of women being able to expose themselves without fear of ostracism. There can be mixed feelings about this exposure, even from among women. Some see the bikini as having reinforced the premium on slimness; others (and I can testify to seeing this in Brazil) wouldn't care less what their body shape is—Coca-Cola, apple or pear-shaped—using the bikini as a statement: "I'm proud of what my body is, even if it doesn't conform to your standards."

In the Philippines, the bikini hasn't quite gained acceptance yet. Visit beaches used by the masses and you'll find people not even using a one-piece suit; instead, they bathe in a blouse and short pants, apparently oblivious to the way a wet blouse may be even more provoking than a bikini.

The reluctance to use a bikini speaks not only of modesty but of body image, a fear that one might draw criticism for daring to use a bikini without the "k", the "correct" proportions. I am told that the main buyers of magazines like FHM are women, curious to check, from the models in bikini, what men are looking for.

So, is the bikini *bastos*? Let's save the possible answers for the end.

'Lukayo'

The other case study I wanted to use was the recent two-week suspension by the Movie and Television Regulatory and Classification Board (MTRCB) of GMA-7's "I-witness" for featuring a documentary "Hindi Ito Bastos: Lolas with Phalluses." The documentary featured Kalayaan, Quezon, where grandmothers dance with wooden penises to greet newlyweds. The MTRCB reprimanded "I-witness" for featuring "frontal nudity" and "masturbation." If they had been asked to render their opinion, and decision in Filipino, I think they would have claimed that "Hindi Ito Bastos" was *bastos*.

The MTRCB's decision reflects a cruder definition of the word, a censorial term that sees anything sexual, including nudity, as lewd and obscene. The decision lacks a contextual understanding of how the dancing is so much part of local culture, one which has been done for many years, out in the streets. Howie Severino, the "I-witness" host, asked some Kalayaan residents if they thought the dances were *bastos* or not, and opinions were split, but even those who said they were *bastos* said it light-heartedly, with ill-disguised glee.

The dancing lolas remind us that popular Filipino culture is actually less conservative than we think. Kalayaan isn't the only town that's so comfortable with public displays of sexuality. One of my students many years ago compiled "green" *loahan* from another town in Quezon, songs about sexual anatomy and sexual acts that were sung, again by grandmothers and grandfathers, at wedding receptions. The list could go on and on, from the man in the barrel souvenirs of Baguio to double-meaning pop songs.

It's hard to trace the origins of practices like those of the dancing lolas. There may be a precolonial fertility ritual aspect to all this. But I'm more inclined to see these as community "desensitization" exercises that help young people, especially newlyweds, to be more comfortable with sexual matters.

Questioning 'bastos'

So is the bikini *bastos*? If skin exposure is the criterion, then yes it is, but if it's a matter of respect and disrespect, the answer becomes harder to come by. I would think it's *bastos*, meaning disrespectful, to deprive women of their autonomy, their right to choose what they want to wear to the beach. Are they *bastos* to people who may find the bikini too revealing? No, because people too have a choice not to look, and if they dare look and find the women stimulating, it's their problem.

And the dancing lolas with phalluses, are they *bastos*? Taken in the context of community and of culture, I think not. In fact, what would be *bastos* is to go against the cultural norms of helping people to feel comfortable with sex. I'd go a step further and propose censorship itself is disrespectful, *bastos*, when it reads malice into a perfectly innocent aspect of culture. Censorship, too, is *bastos* when it deprives people of an understanding of their own culture.

I respect the prudes' right to deny reality, to create their own fantasy sexless world, but I do resent it when they violate our right to view an aspect of our culture, to laugh and to marvel, and to come away understanding ourselves better.

'Nicole' needs moral support

THANKS TO RINA DAVID FOR HER column, "So what?" (PDI, 6/14/06) We are now in the 21st century, but it is still the view of people in any society that a rape victim might have somehow contributed to the act itself.

Anybody who had seen the Hollywood movie, "The Accused," which was based on a true story, would sympathize with the rape victim. Although the rape victim was not your typical kind of girl (she was rough and vulgar), she did not deserve to be raped.

The story revolved on that fatal night when she took some drugs before going to a local bar. At the bar, she told sex jokes and acted provocatively. She was brutally gang-raped in front of a crowd.

The movie was able to show what rape was really like; that it doesn't matter whether one dresses up provocatively or tells sex jokes. Rape is rape and there is no excuse for it. In the movie and in the real-life story where it was based, the men responsible for that heinous crime were punished.

The story of "Nicole" is still unfolding. But for her sake, I hope that the people she loves continue to give her the moral support she needs. And I also hope that Nicole gets justice.

—AIMEE GONZALES,
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Leftist rebels misjudged GMA's resolve

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS IN A fighting mood. We believe that her patience—with the communists' refusal to negotiate peace with the government, and with the New People's Army's relentless assault on government forces—is wearing thin.

The Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA had it coming for them. They read the President's temper wrong. They mistook GMA's solicitousness as a sign of weakness.

As far as we can remember, the National Democratic Front, which has been negotiating a truce with the government, has been acting not to advance the cause of peace but its ideological agenda.

Indeed, there is no sense pursuing peace talks with the communists when their legal fronts in Congress are overtly and actively supporting destabilization moves and derailing government programs, even as the NPA keeps attacking government forces and sabotaging private installations.

Communist fronts are likewise waging a concerted propaganda campaign blaming the government for the deaths of "leftist leaders." There was a time when the CPP-NPA virtually controlled Davao and was purging their ranks of members they suspected to have turned government agents. Given this history, is it completely unbelievable that the executions are being carried out in the tradition of the gory massacres in Davao? And the communists even have the temerity of bringing the executions to the attention of the United Nations.

After declaring an all-out war against the communist radicals and armed elements, GMA has ordered the purchase of attack helicopters and restocked military and police arsenals with weapons to counter terrorism, insurgency and organized crime. There are billions of pesos more in savings that the Arroyo administration is spending for countryside development. We believe that this two-pronged approach will solve insurgency in two years and the country's economic ills before 2010. Let's see some action.

—MIRRIAM DAHUNOG,
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From left to right: Edison Oribiana (Davies Paints), Joseph Cruel (URC), Carole Lopez (MSD), Chiqui Escareal-Go (Mansmith President), Josiah Go (Mansmith Chairman and YMMA Founder), Jade Tulio (HBC), Anson Dichavez (Unilever) and Ricarte Gapuz, Jr. (RAGRC)

- **1st Young Market Masters Summit Overview**
  by Josiah Go, Chairman, Mansmith and Fielders, Inc. and Founder, Young Market Masters Awards (YMMA)
- **Launching and Developing New Brands and Product Categories**
  by Joseph Cruel, Senior Product Manager for Beverages, Universal Robina Corporation and YMMA Awardee for Brand Management
- **Opportunity-Seeking in the Marketplace**
  by Ricarte Gapuz Jr., Chairman, R.A. Gapuz Review Center and YMMA Awardee for Entrepreneurial Marketing
- **Special Session: Using Advocacy Marketing to Communicate Your Message**
  by Chiqui Escareal-Go, President and Managing Director, Mansmith and Fielders, Inc.
- **Open Forum with morning speakers**
- **Developing Big Ideas to Grab Market Shares**
  by Edison Oribiana, Business Development Manager, Davies Paints and YMMA Awardee for Business Development
- **Managing Key Accounts for Growth and Preferred Supplier Status**
  by Anson Dichaves, Director for Regional Customer Development Training for Asia, Unilever (Singapore) and YMMA Awardee for Customer Development
- **Improving Volume Thru In-Store Marketing and Promotions**
  by Jade Tulio, Vice President for Marketing, HBC Inc. and YMMA Awardee for Retail Marketing
- **Open Forum with afternoon speakers**
- **Call for Nomination of the 2nd Young Market Masters Awards**
  by Josiah Go, Chairman, Mansmith and Fielders, Inc. and Founder, Young Market Masters Awards (YMMA)

Course Investment
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No curing the sick man

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

WE CAN ALL DEBATE THIS SUBJECT AD nauseam, but the fact remains that no politician in the Philippines wants to shake up the status quo. As long as politicians buy votes and recover the money through corruption, there will be no curing the sick man of Asia. Since time immemorial, he who has the gold rules in the Philippines. There is no will among the politicians to right what is drastically wrong.

The only way that you can straighten out this mess is to make government transactions transparent. Unfortunately, it is the fox that is guarding the hen house, and therefore nothing good will ever come of it. If we imprison a couple of politicians caught enriching themselves in office, maybe the rest of the crooks would be warned. Unless and until someone with the political will is willing to take on this bad and entrenched system, no change can be done.

I have lived in the United States for many years and I have seen a president, vice president, senators, congressmen, mayors, etc., jailed or punished in some other way when they got caught. That is the mark of a truly great nation: no one is above the law.—**Nestor Mercado, New York (via e-mail)**

* * *

No matter how many changes are made in the Constitution or in the form of government, if we don't change the people running the government, all will be useless.

Eradicate all the *trapo* and their relatives. They are the ones who make our country sink. Are they not the same people who make the Constitution and all the bills and laws? Now they are asking for changes.

Give priority to educating our people by allocating a bigger budget for free education. Let them learn self-discipline and to become nationalistic. They must not rely on government help alone. Let them cooperate, too. It is a give-and-take process.

Create a "corruption watch group." Any military (especially generals), police and government employee who acquires mansions, expensive cars and other property without evident means must be investigated at once.

It is only in the Philippines where no politician loses, every loser has been "cheated" and every winner has won through deceit. Let him/her finish his/her term; they all cheated, anyway.

What would happen if we kept on changing our leader? We would have never-ending problems, and the loser would be we, the people.

Municipalities and barangays must educate their constituents on the impact of population growth. The more people to feed, the less food they get.—**Ernesto Sandoval, Saudi Arabia (via e-mail)**

* * *

If only the real enemy of the people would leave Gloria alone to do her job, this "crisis" would end.

Blind to the little progress the country is achieving despite the burden of barnacles hampering the smooth sailing of the ship of state, these groups of oppositionists, which unfortunately includes Catholic Church leaders who, despite the Vatican's clear advice to detach themselves from political activities, still insist on doing the same, are the real problem that plagues the country as a whole.

These groups do not seem to have the correct attitude.

We need a strong arm to flick the whip and tame the wild beasts! First, Gloria should herd them all together, put sacks over their heads and then get a baseball bat and do some practice swings on them! Too brutal, you say? But look at what is happening in the country. It is being brutalized and nobody seems to notice. Isn't that worse?—**Ford (via e-mail)**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2006

THEY WILL BE THE JUDGES. YOU WILL BE THE JURY.
Philippine Idol
ABANGAN SA JULY 29!
ABC
Iba Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				National Geographic	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Real Stories			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	A Love To Kill	Gudtym			Insider
AXN		A Few Good Men					Mondo Magic	Amazon		Andromeda (Season V)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	E Buzz	The Thomas Crown Affair					Blue Streak
Cartoon Network	Police Academy	Richie Rich	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Codename: Kids Next Door/ The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy Double Episodes	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons - Double Episodes		Power Rangers Ninja Storm	PokeMon	Dex	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinema One		Talusaling				[illegible] Ng Sandali				Huwag Mo Nang Itanong				Iskalawag				Annabelle Huggins, Ruben Abalos Tragedy	
Cinemax		Shadow Of A Doubt (3:10 PM)			[illegible] (4:45 PM)				Precious Victims (6:25 PM)			Killing Time			The Adventures Of Brisco County Jr.			Rules Of Obsession	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Surface		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Crime Scene Academy	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Crossing Jordan	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-[illegible] Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr Whiskers	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pool: Snooker Premier Snooker League '05				Tour De France 2006	U.S. Senior Open Golf Ch'ship 1st rd.					Germany Tonight	Tour De France 2006	Sportscenter Germany	Boxing Superstars Friday Night Fights				Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Veronica Mars 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Joan Of Arcadia 2		American Dreams 3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code: The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life In Health	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass Live		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas In Today's World	Fr John Corapi	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat (2:45 PM)	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Endless Love 1: Autumn In My Heart By Popular Demand		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Captain Barbell	Majika	I Luv NY		Love Of The Condor Heroes		Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		Empire (3:15 PM)						Bewitched	The Nanny	Judging Amy		Doc Martin		Hustle					Hustle (11:45 PM)
HBO				Stealth					The Big Preview: Superman Returns	Executive Decision				U.S. Marshals				Along Came Polly (11:10 PM)	
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Combattler V	Gundam Seed	Iron Man 28	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Gundam Seed
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	TV Infomercial		Japan Video Topics Ang		ME TV		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics Ang	Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show With David Letterman		Jack In The Box				Megas XLR	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	American Dad	The Late Show With David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Reno 911	Insomniac With Dave Attell
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	Designing Cents	Food Network Special		Boy Meets Grill	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines		Boiling Points			MTV Hits (with Sisa)					Get Spotted				MTV Diyes		Boiling Points			
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXILOG	MYX Finds	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	National Geographic Specials		Violent Earth Tornado	Violent Earth Tornado	Amazing Moments	Amazing Moments	The E. America Unveiled		WOW: Chocolate, The Dandy Food		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Volcano Eruption at Pinatubo		Attack on London	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alas			Dyaryo Ko, Mahal Ko Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Ray Sinfel & Angelique Lazo		GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Banta OCW With Susan K.	
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up/ Jimmy Neutron/ Special Nick Kicks	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	New Era Avatar: The Legend Of Aang	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly OddParents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Iwi Sa Mga Kamag				Sumpa Ng Pag-ibig Moms				Sandy Walking Words				Akala Mo		Hataw, Awit At Pinoy		
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)				Phoenix	Irono	Fireworks	Damo	Project 11	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irono
RPN 9						Global Window	RPN Aksyon News	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider							Newswatch Now	TV Grabs On Friday		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepards Voice		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports			Boxing Greatest Classics			2005 US Open 8 Ball Ch'ship		Philippine Bowling Congress World Games		Sagupaan	GWS 27-2006	WNBA '06: Phoenix Mercury vs Detroit Shock		FIFA World Cup		Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	2006 Thomas Cup Olympiad	
Sports Plus		Golf Today	Inside the PGA	French Open '06 Highlights						SD Cinas	Wide Side Asia	Hops Tournament	Rookie Manual						
Star Movies			The Forsaken			Nina Ukas			The Ticket (6:40 PM)	Spotting Death (7:10 PM)				Around The World In 80 Days				Charlie's Angels	
Star World	Arrested Development	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Ed		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling		Third Watch/ Love Asia		NYPD Blue		Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23	Bewitched	Naruto				Dance Idol	Teen Titans	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup	Barkada Nights			Nuevo (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Real World

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Clashes continue despite GMA order

COTABATO CITY—Clashes continued between militiamen and separatist guerrillas in several Maguindanao towns despite an order from President Macapagal-Arroyo for authorities to keep the fighting from spreading.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, shown here during ceremonies for the 47th Araw ng Lanao del Norte, has ordered a stop to the fighting. But the clashes continued. LYN RILLON/PDI PHOTO

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front said militiamen continued attacking guerrillas.

Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, said the President "has directed us to make all measures that will prevent the escalation of the fighting."

Dureza was in Shariff Aguak town in Maguindanao yesterday for a meeting with local officials.

"The President wants us to arrange something for both warring groups ... to see how (the) arrangement can be done to normalize the situation and attend to the needs of evacuees," he added.

The fighting is likely to escalate as 22 town mayors declared war on the perpetrators of the June 23 car bomb attack in Shariff Aguak town that killed seven people. Authorities suspect MILF members to be behind the attack.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said nothing has been done to stop the fighting.

Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan, of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said he couldn't stop the Maguindanao mayors from sending their militias to Shariff Aguak.

"I cannot stop the mayors ... because it's part of their support in the campaign of the national government against terrorists," he said.

The governor is a son of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan, the target of the June 23 bomb attack.

The fighting in Maguindanao started on June 28 when MILF guerrillas fired at security forces who were serving arrest warrants for rebel field commanders Jamil Ombra and Sajid Pakiladato, in the remote village of Iginagampong in Shariff Aguak.

The two are suspects in the June 23 bombing.

Investigators linked the recent attack to another that killed Datu Piang Mayor Saudi Ampatuan, another son of Andal Ampatuan, in 2003.

The Red Cross has arrived in the scene to help evacuees who have made roadsides in Shariff Aguak their temporary homes.

The number of evacuees has reached 20,670, according to Ruby Sahali, social welfare secretary for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Residents reported continuing mortar fires from both sides.

"We are tired of always moving from one place to another because of the fighting," said Daud Umpa, a resident of Barangay Diate in Datu Saudi town, where the fighting spread.

He said most houses in the village had been burned. Solar power panels built with funding from the United States were destroyed.

"We are saddened by the fact that ... our barangays ... are being bombed," said Theresa Cruz-Capellan, an official of the nongovernment group Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (Amore) that built the solar panels.

Amore installed 150 solar power systems to light houses, streets, mosques, schools and village halls.

Col. Felipe Tabas, chief of the Army's 604th Infantry Brigade, denied his men participated in the fighting.

"Those involved in the fighting were (members of) civilian volunteer organization (CVO) controlled by the local government. We are only securing the national highway and we are maintaining a position about two kilometers away from the highway," Tabas said.

CHILDREN play in an Islamic school that was transformed into an evacuation center for residents fleeing clashes between militiamen and MILF guerrillas protecting two leaders from arrest in connection with a bomb attack. JEOFFREY MAITEM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Palace suspends Baguio mayor

By Frank Cimatu
and Donna Demetillo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

YARANON

BAGUIO CITY—MALACAÑANG suspended Mayor Braulio Yaranon for a year for grave misconduct and abuse of authority over a controversial pay-parking scheme here.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita signed the suspension order on June 26. A copy of the order was received by Yaranon by mail on Tuesday.

"This is just the start of war. And I can assure you that we will win this war," Yaranon told reporters on Thursday.

"The decision of the Office of President to suspend me is effective only after the period of appeal and no appeal has been perfected," the mayor said in his letter to his department heads.

"This is not a preventive suspension. I will avail of all legal remedies and will serve until I have exhausted my appeal."

Ermita's order stemmed from a complaint filed by the Jadewell Parking Systems Corp., a private pay-parking company operating in the city.

Jadewell accused Yaranon of violation of the Constitution, dishonesty, oppression, misconduct and abuse of authority in issuing executive orders that allegedly violated the terms of a memorandum of agreement between the city government and Jadewell.

In his order, Ermita said Yaranon was suspended for six months for grave misconduct and for another six months for abuse of authority and oppression. Yaranon should have served the suspension until June 30, 2007.

Ermita said Yaranon committed grave misconduct when he asked motorists to disobey a city ordinance converting certain roads as public parking spaces. This is "a complete turnaround of his mandated and sworn duty to implement all ordinances," Ermita said.

He also cited Yaranon's issuance of an executive order on July 8, 2004 enjoining the police to stop and prevent further acts of Jadewell in pursuing its pay-parking business. This, Ermita said, "violated certain basic contractual and vested rights of Jadewell."

Yaranon said he would file his appeal today.

"We will fight Jadewell and those who supported them and others who are responsible for the scam," he said.

He said Jadewell's operations violated the rights of motorists to due process of law in the collection of fines and penalties, and the confiscation of vehicles. *With a report from Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Visayas, Mindanao lotto earns ₱1.6B for gov't

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—THE PHILIPPINE Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) in the Visayas and Mindanao generated P1.6 billion in on-line lottery betting for the first half of this year.

The revenue was higher by about 8.7 percent than the PCSO's target of P1.8 billion and 15.94 percent higher than the P1.6 billion generated in the same period last year, according to PCSO Vis-Min manager William Medici.

The biggest source of revenue was Central Visayas as it has the most lotto terminals than the other regions, Medici said.

Central Visayas had 254 lotto terminals compared to 177 of Western Visayas.

Medici said Central Visayas, with Cebu as its regional center, is also more progressive compared to the other regions in Visayas and Mindanao.

Medici said he was optimistic that the PCSO Vis-Min will exceed its revenue target of P3.6 billion this year.

Medici said 55 percent of the earnings went to winning bettors, 30 percent to charity and 15 percent to PCSO operations.

Pollution destroys ₱50M in tilapia, prawns

MINALIN, PAMPANGA—REvived after Mt. Pinatubo's 1991 eruptions, the P280-million aquaculture industry in this town has lost about P50 million worth of *tilapia* and prawns in the last six months due to the worsening pollution of rivers in the province, officials and growers said here on Thursday.

Mayor Edgardo Flores said the coastal town was "direly in need" of clean water to sustain at least 2,800 hectares of fishponds.

He said polluted water from the rivers of Angeles City, Mexico and the City of San Fernando in the province's northeastern areas flows into Minalin. Light industries are concentrated in these areas.

Wastes

Wastes from households along Minalin's riverbanks contribute to the deterioration of water quality, Flores said.

Water analysis done by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources on the Yabut, Culcul, Saplad and Federosa rivers has confirmed the pollution at moderate to serious.

Fishermen admitted that the industry has its share of polluters. While prawn growers produce less wastes as they rely more on *lumot* (algae) as organic feeds, the *tilapia* sector has become more dependent on manufactured feeds that end up as wastes at the pond's bottom.

Pesticide

Also, some growers still use sodium nitrate as a pesticide, according to Rustico Limpin, president of the hatcheries sector in Central Luzon.

"We draw water from the same water sources so we would have to tackle the problem altogether. The bigger growers would have to do their share by looking at ways by which they could reduce the wastes from their fishponds," said Rudy Velasco, a prawn grower.

Velasco, 55, has not been able to start production for a month now because black water has flowed again from the Dalang Bangka River in San Fernando.

Flushed out

"I hope the rains come so that the dirty water would be flushed out toward the Manila Bay," he said.

Flores said the multi-sectoral task force, led by the Minalin River Commission, was going to deal with the problem on two fronts: It regulates production practices in fishponds while it enforces municipal laws in solid waste management.

Fishing industry

The Department of Agriculture, he said, is part of the problem because it has assigned nontechnicians like teachers in regulating the fishing industry here.

The Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has stepped in to help protect the industry.

"We will delineate Minalin and adjoining towns into a water quality management area. help in the establishment of governing board and development of water quality management area plan pursuant to the Clean Water Act," EMB Regional Director Lormelyn Claudio said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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CHURCH PROTEST DEFEATED

Poro Pt. casino has permit from Pagcor

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE Catholic Church in La Union stood by its opposition to a casino in Poro Point that an official of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) said had a license to operate from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

The casino opened quietly amid protests from Church leaders in the province.

Narciso Abaya, retired general and head of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), said he understood that the Poro Point casino, which is owned by International Thunderbird Gaming Corp. (ITGC), has a license from the Pagcor.

"I supposed Pagcor has done its part and gave [ITGC] a license to operate a casino," he said.

In Manila, Palace sources said the proponents of the casino were told by top officials not to proceed with the project, but insisted on opening the gaming facility.

They said even President Macapagal-Arroyo frowned on the project.

They refused to say, however, how the casino was able to push through despite the opposition from the Palace officials.

Abaya said ITGC has a land lease contract with the BCDA for the gaming center.

He said its contract allowed it to develop a 65-hectare tourism complex.

The complex was to also have a golf course, a beach walk, a promenade and villas.

Bishop Artemio Rillera, of the Diocese of San Fernando, La Union, has objected to the casino project, saying it would spawn "untold evils" like prostitution and drug abuse.

He said "there can never be a justification for promoting gambling under the pretext of generating jobs for the unemployed."

The bishop said that while the casino was supposed to just cater to moneyed clients, even employees of the provincial government have started patronizing it.

Abaya said he signed the contract in 2005 on the endorsement of the BCDA board of directors.

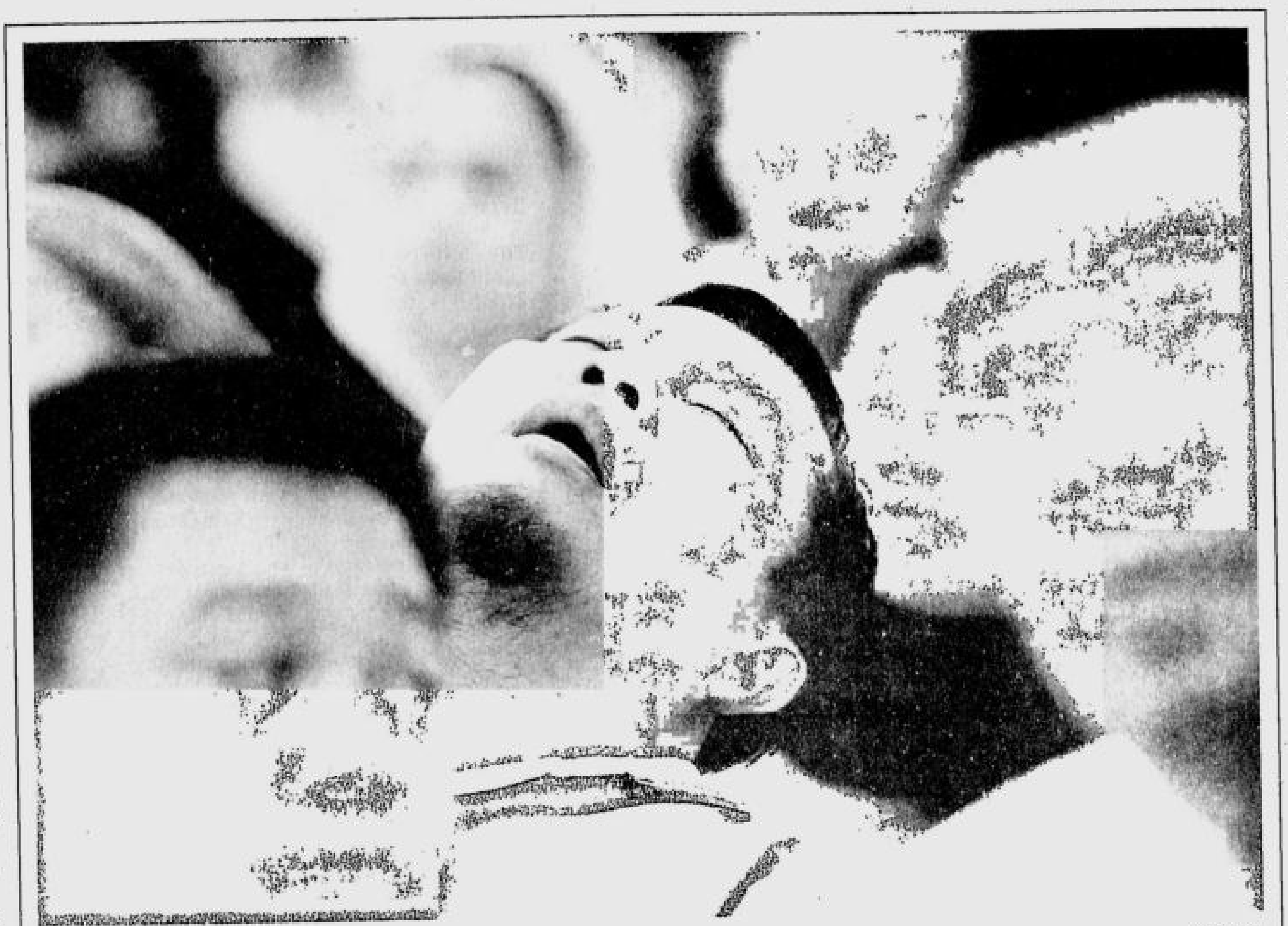
According to him, the lease contract required ITGC to secure the necessary permits from government agencies, including Pagcor.

"It's a legal project," he added, referring to the tourism estate.

Agoo Mayor Eufranio Eriguel, president of the La Union Mayors' League, said the casino was providing employment to residents in San Fernando and nearby towns like Bauang and Aringay.

He said the casino should be viewed along with its other component, the tourism complex, as a rest and recreation area where people go to "unwind after a hard day's work."

"We can also have dining in the area as there is a first-class restaurant near the casino," he told the INQUIRER on Thursday. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk with a report from Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



LYN RILLON

SNOOZE
An unidentified guest at the celebration of the 47th Araw ng Lanao del Norte dozes off during President Macapagal-Arroyo's speech at the Mindanao Civic Center Gymnasium in Tubod, the province's capital town.

Gov's son faces raps for manhandling vice gov

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—Zambales Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II on Wednesday confirmed that a complaint was being readied against the son of Gov. Vicente Magsaysay who allegedly manhandled and threatened him during a public event in Masinloc, Zambales, on June 27.

Lacbain said he had the incident recorded in the police blotter on July 2 in preparation for the filing of a case against Jesus Vicente Magsaysay, a director of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Magsaysay, also known as JV, said "no such incident" happened during the town fiesta program at Sitio Balogo in Barangay Inhobol at about 11 p.m. on June 27.

"If he's filing a case against me, I'm filing a case against him too for making up stories," Magsaysay told the INQUIRER by phone.

Based on the vice governor's statement, the Masinloc police report said Magsaysay sat beside Lacbain after the latter made his speech in which he said he could not match the P12,000 that the governor's son gave as prize money that night.

Lacbain went on to say that he could not do that because the elder Magsaysay transferred the P3.5-million budget of the vice governor's office to the governor's office.

Just as Lacbain returned to his seat at the table reserved for the guests on stage, Magsaysay was said to have commented in Filipino: "You don't know how to work along with the provincial board members. That's the reason you don't have funds. It's not the fault of the governor."

Magsaysay then sat beside the vice governor.

According to the report, Magsaysay used his left arm to clasp the neck of Lacbain. With his right fist under the table, he also punched the vice governor several times in the stomach, the report said.

Lacbain told police that the governor's son was drunk.

The report quoted Magsaysay as saying in Filipino: "Don't put me on the spot. You're causing me shame. I'm spending my own money and not the capitol's money. You better be careful with your statements. Remember your loved ones."

The report further said that Magsaysay did these "as if nothing was happening." It added that he went on "squeezing" the neck of Lacbain and "pressing [it] hard." He also pressed hard the right arm of the vice governor, the report said.

Four companions of Magsaysay, identified as Dick Manikan, Larry Edano, Jason Malong and Julius Villamin, stood behind the two officials. The report did not say if the four men tried to intervene.

Magsaysay, according to the report, offered to give Lacbain P10,000 and challenged him to announce to the audience that it was the vice governor's money. Lacbain did not take the money.

Gov't agency saves ₱123M with reduced workforce

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—At least P123 million in yearly savings has been drawn by the Technology and Livelihood Resources Center since it trimmed the number of its employees in 2005 under the government's rationalization program, an official said.

TLRC Deputy Director General Dennis Cunanan said 193 personnel in managerial to clerical jobs had availed themselves of early retirement for which the TLRC spent P64.4 million. The INQUIRER could not immediately confirm if the full amount had already been paid to the retirees.

The agency, Cunanan said, earned savings of at least P53.4 million in salaries.

Retaining 93 employees in essential positions, the TLRC has minimized its need for big office spaces, generating another P68.4 million savings from rent, he said.

According to him, the TLRC, under Deputy Director Antonio Ortiz, was the first government corporation that heeded the rationalization program.

Under Executive Order 366, the agency did away with redundant positions and took on austerity measures.

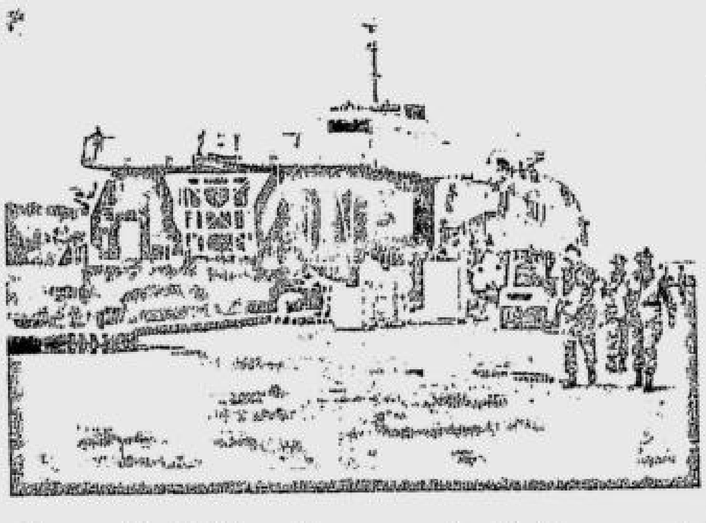
Before, Cunanan said, the TLRC had an office with four clerks or it paid the services of a typesetter although it did not have its own printing press.

According to Cunanan, Ortiz was confident that the TLRC was not only going to save on public funds but also help stop the agency from incurring losses.

Losses reached P353 million in 2004, but totaled P37 million as of June this year, Cunanan said.

To make another savings of P4.5 million, the agency is transferring its office from Pasig City to a less expensive office in San Juan next month, he said.

Officials, he said, were also finding ways to make productive at least P1 billion worth of acquired assets since the agency's creation in 1977. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



A US ship unloads in Davao City medical and school supplies for donation to needy communities in Southern Mindanao. The supplies are much needed in some hospitals in the city, particularly the Davao Medical Center. DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

South Mindanao's biggest hospital suffers shortage of docs, nurses

DAVAO CITY—SOUTHERN MINDANAO'S largest hospital, the Davao Medical Center (DMC), lacks physicians and nurses.

DMC director Gerardo Cunanan said the hospital had an average of 50,000 patients confined a year and 350 patients received daily at its emergency room.

Ideally, Cunanan said, DMC should have 1,500 personnel. But because of the continuing exodus of physicians (taking up nursing courses) and nurses abroad, it has only 760 personnel.

"Our greatest handicap is manpower," Cunanan said at the Club 888 forum held at the Marco Polo Hotel yesterday.

He said most of DMC's skilled nurses had already gone to work in foreign countries, with the hospital left hiring fresh graduates.

"I know these new graduates we have will also be leaving. In the next three years, we will experience the same thing," he said.

He said the problem on manpower should be addressed or else DMC's operations will severely suffer.

But Cunanan also admits DMC is also facing budgetary problems.

DMC is operating with an over P300 million budget this year. The budget includes payment for salaries. If the hospital has to meet the required 1,500 personnel, its current budget should be doubled, Cunanan said.

He said the financial assistance provided by the city government amounting to P15 million has helped a lot in the hospital's operations. The city is set to give an additional P5 million through a supplemental budget.

The hospital has earned over P100 million last year, Cunanan said.

Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Joelle tells how Erap wooed her

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE FRAUD COMPLAINT FORMER BEAUTY queen Joelle Pelaez lodged yesterday against deposed President Joseph Estrada and seven others at the Makati City Prosecutor's Office also contains details about how the former movie actor, a known womanizer, wooed her.

In her complaint alleging that Estrada duped her and her family of pieces of property worth P20 million, Pelaez said Estrada rendered her a love song, gave her a dozen red roses, a gold Rolex watch with diamonds, a BMW car and a condominium unit in Ortigas, Pasig seven years ago.

"It is very clear that this whole episode was started and masterminded by Estrada when he tried to woo me with various gifts," she said.

Charged with Estrada, were Ramon Ang, Alfredo Bautista, Jeronimo Kilayko, Pia Guada, Yvette Cruz, top or former ranking officials of San Miguel Corp.; and Lorenzo Tan and Rafael Bueno Jr., United Coconut Planters Bank officials.

Pelaez added that the courtship was "subsequently continued" by the San Miguel officials, and the "finishing touches" applied by Tan and Bueno.

"The result of all these machinations and deceptions in the attempt of [Estrada] to earn my trust and confidence which I ultimately refused, was the loss of our two condominium units amounting to P20 million, more or less..."

"The enticement of a dealership with San Miguel Corp. are actually deceptive machinations of the respondents," she stated.

The condominium units were used as collateral for the beer dealership contract with San Miguel beer allegedly offered to her by Ang upon the instructions of Estrada. The dealership did not materialize, she alleged.

Crisostomo Akol, Pelaez's counsel, said the complaint went beyond money matters. "For us it is not the damage that is important but the deception committed. [Pelaez] also wants to clear her name and that she be given justice," he told reporters yesterday.

Pelaez, second runner-up in the 1999 Bb. Pilipinas beauty pageant, declined to speak to reporters when she subscribed to her complaint before Fiscal Gaudencio Tolledo Jr., 4th assistant city prosecutor yesterday afternoon.

Pelaez was expected to file her complaint at around 1 p.m. yesterday, but she showed up three hours later. Akol said the delay was an indirect result of death threats Pelaez received hours before the filing of the case.

Pelaez was also not feeling well, he said "She fainted this morning when she woke up," he added.

Pelaez appeared in court yesterday with armed escorts.

COMPLAINANT Joelle Pelaez crosses the street after filing her case against Joseph Estrada. RYAN LIM

Cops seize fake Viagra

POLICE SEIZED YESTERDAY SOME P3.3 million worth of allegedly fake Viagra pills in Manila. Supt. Benjamin de los Santos said his men raided seven pharmacies and a warehouse in Binondo on the strength of a warrant issued by a Manila court. "We acted based on the complaint of Pfizer," said De los Santos, head of a Criminal Investigation and Detection Group Unit. He said the pills, contained in 1,127 boxes, were allegedly from China.

"Pfizer said they could be deadly."

The officer said his men had reported arrests but were still on their way to Camp Crame.

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SUBJECT TO BANK APPROVAL

Stude in hospital after jump

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A STUDENT OF THE DON BOSCO TECHNICAL INSTItute in Makati City tried to kill himself by jumping from the roof of the school gymnasium while classes were ongoing yesterday morning.

Bismart Lipan, 24, was rushed to the Makati Medical Center at 9:30 a.m. after the incident, said P02 Ariel Ve-

STUDE/ A20

25 resign from PNU posts

But protesting officials to stay on as teachers

By Tina G. Santos

TWENTY-FIVE OFFICIALS OF THE STATE-RUN Philippine Normal University (PNU) yesterday resigned from their administrative posts as they continued to protest the appointment of lawyer Lutgardo Barbo as the school's new president.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Estefania de Guzman led other officials, including the deans and heads of the university's different colleges and departments, in the mass resignation, the latest in a series of protests launched by teachers, officials and students.

"This is the most ethical way to show our protest. This is a strong sign that we are really against the decision of the Board of Regents (BOR)," De Guzman said.

Those who resigned comprise the majority of the university's academic officials. They will, however, continue to teach because they remain members of the faculty. "We can still teach because we still carry our academic ranks. We just resigned from our administrative positions," De Guzman said.

In their resignation letter addressed to the BOR, the officials lamented the board's failure to realize that their decision to appoint Barbo as PNU president was hounded by "issues of legitimacy, credibility and politics."

"But we cannot be faulted if we remain unwavering in our position that the entire search process is tainted with abnormality. The best thing we can do to stress that there are certain values we, in the academe, hold very dearly and maintain as nonnegotiable, is to tender our resignation," they said.

Those opposed to Barbo's appointment had claimed that he failed to meet even the minimum standards set for the post, including administrative experience in teacher education or a related field and a doctorate degree.

The BOR, who met on Wednesday to discuss the controversy, is expected to issue its decision today.

But De Guzman said they had learned from a reliable source that the board would uphold its decision naming Barbo president.

"Resigning is our last line of defense to demonstrate that we are all together and are against the BOR decision," she said, adding that the situation could also serve as a learning experience for the PNU community.

NBI nabs 2 suspected illegal recruiters

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TWO SUSPECTED ILLEGAL RECRUITERS were arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in an entrapment operation in Pasay City on Monday for sending young women to Cyprus to work as "nude dancers."

Suspects Emil Manahan, also known as "Emmel Helican" or "Myles," of Sampaloc, Manila, and Herminia "Hermie" delos Reyes, of Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, were brought for inquest proceedings to the Department of Justice, according to NBI Anti-Human Trafficking Division (AHTRAD) chief Ferdinand Lavin.

The suspects face charges of estafa and for violating the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, Migrant Workers Act and Overseas Act of 1995, according to Lavin. A third suspect, Rose Hizon of Barangay San Antonio, Commonwealth, Quezon City, remains at large.

An investigation conducted by the NBI-AHTRAD showed that the suspects first recruited complainant Erna Pingol in November 2005 to work as an entertainer in Cyprus with a monthly salary of P120,000.

Manahan and his companions allegedly required Pingol to pay P26,620 in processing and placement fees.

"The subjects then briefed the surprised complainant, who applied as a singer, that she was supposed to work as a nude dancer in a Cyprus club," NBI-AHTRAD Special Investigator Sonny Rex Solano said in his report.

When the complainant found out that the suspects were not licensed by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration for employment abroad, she decided to seek the NBI's help on Monday, the day of her departure for Cyprus.

Pingol informed the NBI that Manahan, who had asked her to pay an additional P2,700, would be waiting for her at a restaurant inside the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) at around 1:30 p.m. Manahan and Delos Reyes were arrested while accepting marked money from the complainant, the report said.

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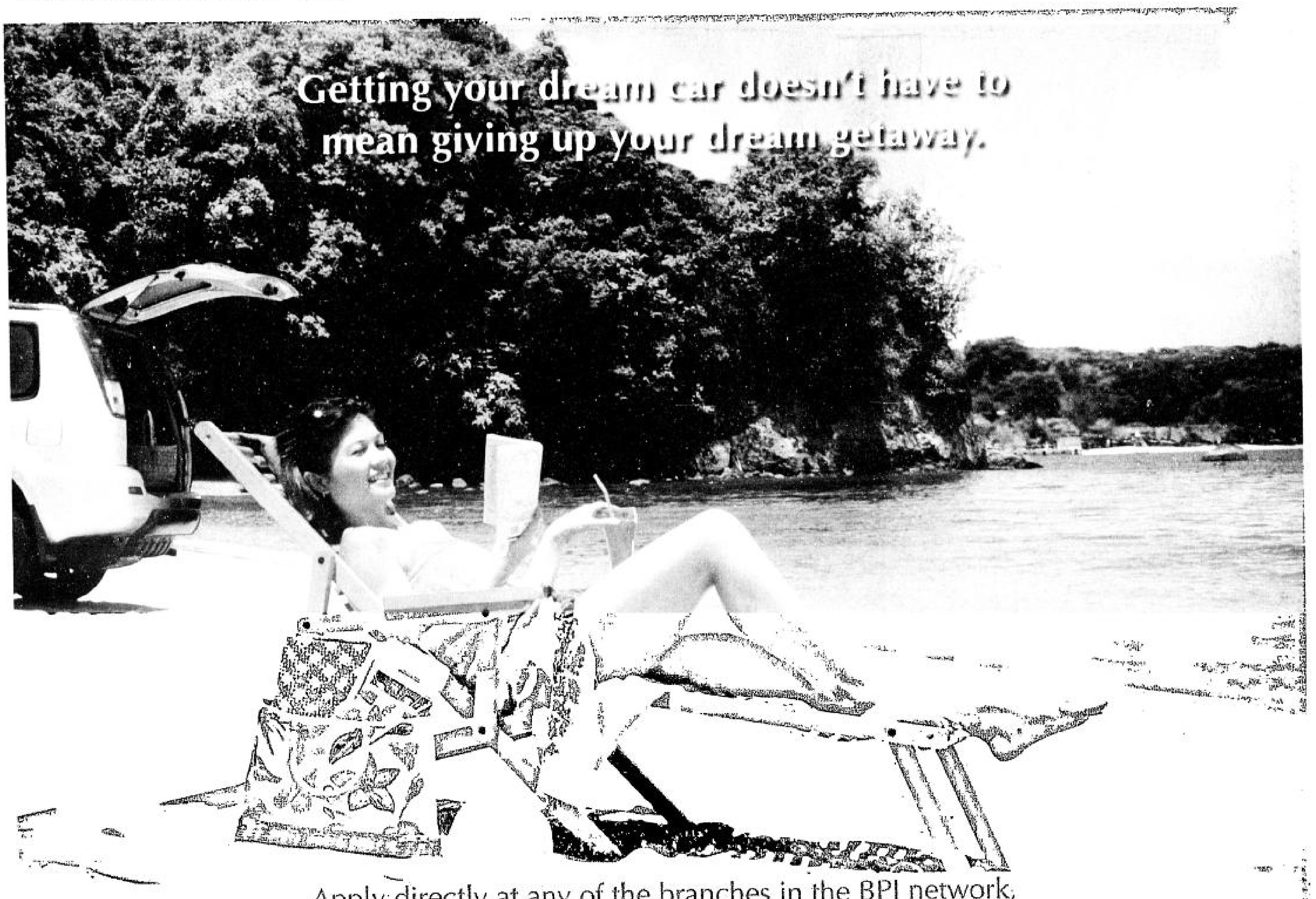

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Banz Bañez: A friendship's tale retold

IN SCHOOL, HE WAS KNOWN TO WHIP UP A sketch at the drop of a hat.

"Nag-uumpisa pa lang kami, nakalima na siya," ("He would be on his fifth sketch while we were just on our first)" said Tony Varquez about classmate and close friend Bernardo "Banz" Bañez.

"He was a man in perpetual motion, possessed. Give him a piece of paper, *aandar na 'yan* (He's on his way), agreed Pete Castañeda, another classmate at the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts in the '50s.

It was a fine afternoon spent reminiscing about top advertising man and painter Banz who passed on in 2001, as two commercial art (advertising) majors remembered those heady days at the UP, when it was still an enclave of colorful eccentrics, underfed poets mooning over lost loves, professors newly returned from Ivy League campuses or poetry-writing workshops, and coeds fresh from convent schools eager to experiment with freedoms newly-acquired.

Varquez and Castañeda are two of five artists whose works will be part of an exhibit that opens today at the Vargas Museum on the UP Diliman campus honoring their late classmate and "brod" of the Beta Sigma fraternity that is marking its 60th founding anniversary on July 14. The paintings of Beta Sigmans Adi Baens-Santos, Jess Abrera and Francisco Verano and 15 pieces by Banz will be shown at the exhibit titled "Beyond Horizons," part of a seven-day round of activities that began with a motorcade today and ends with a jubilee ball on the 14th.

The conversation was light; both Varquez and Castañeda have prodigious memories. It was not difficult to dredge for vignettes about life with Banz, one of the many boys from the provinces hardly out of their teens eager to test their pluck against their more sophisticated urban counterparts in the school year of 1957.

"Mabiro at madaling makipagkaibigan," (He was playful and made friends easily) said Tony, who moved on after graduation to become an adman for Ace Compton, PhilProm and McCann Erickson before landing a teaching job, as did Banz, at the College of the Holy Spirit's Fine Arts department.

Banz was easily the most popular of the Beta Sigma boys who made a beeline for his San Juan home for their personalized "Malmon," a cartoon figure he made famous—and which he continued to draw—even when he was already out of the university, for Betans who had turned professionals. *"Libre na ang sketch, libre pati merienda sa bahay nila,"* (The sketch was free, as well as the snack, said Tony. Castañeda, who later worked in the promotions departments of PanAm and Caltex, said Banz, a prolific painter known for his serene seascapes he called Peacespace, was the life of the party at reunions, "but certainly not a comedian. We had one, but I won't say who. I could get sued!" Banz was everyone's big brother, and was very good at counseling. Though his advice was mostly unsolicited, said Castañeda, he came on as the good guy.

BUDDIES Castañeda and Varquez with Linda: Close encounters. Below: Banz poses with one of his famous seascapes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Banz' wife and best friend Linda, who is listening intently to this remembrance of things past, added that she was surprised when friends told her at his wake that Banz had saved many a wobbly marriage from entering the realm of separation or annulment.

One hulk, in tears, had even confessed to her that Banz had been there for him at the right time when he felt suicidal. "If Banz had not been around to listen, I would have killed myself," she quoted the man as saying.

The "father confessor" also loved to croon Sinatra tunes after a hard day's work. Linda recalled that when Frank Sinatra was in town for a concert, Banz was so excited he swapped a ticket worth P15,000 for a painting of his so he could see the singing legend up close.

But the man who was everybody's friend was a man of a few words when he took off his adviser's cloak. "Maybe it is because I have a listening heart," he would tell his wife.

Banz lived well, and paid close attention to voices within and without with all his heart.

Ester G. Dipasupil

Stude in hospital ...

From page A19

jerano of the Police Community Precinct 4. "He is still under observation at the hospital," he added.

Lipan, a scholar taking up refrigeration and air-conditioning at the institute, landed on his buttocks before his back hit the pavement. He was conscious when a team from Makati Rescue brought him to the hospital.

Lipan's older brother, John, who teaches in the same school, told the police that he saw his sibling on the roof of the 36-foot high building before the latter jumped.

He added that he had no idea why his brother, who had just arrived from Camarines Sur, wanted to kill himself.

DID YOU KNOW

The National Capital Region (NCR) was established by virtue of Presidential Decree 1396 signed by President Ferdinand Marcos on June 2, 1978. The decree declared Metro Manila a region and placed it under the Department of Human Settlements. With 14 cities and three municipalities, the NCR is the most urbanized of all administrative regions in the country. The cities are: Manila, Quezon, Caloocan, Makati, Marikina, Mandaluyong, Las Piñas, Pasig, Muntinlupa, Malabon, Valenzuela, Pasay, Parañaque and Taguig. The three municipalities are Navotas, Pateros and San Juan. *Mel Lawrence de Guzman, PDI Research*

METROBRIEFS

'Just a reshuffle'

THE MARIKINA City Police welcomed a new police chief in a simple turnover ceremony yesterday afternoon. Supt. Sotero Ramos of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Regional Intelligence Special Operations Office replaced Senior Supt. Manuel Gaerlan, who had served the city for almost a year. Gaerlan, who will reportedly assume a position at the national police headquarters in Camp Crame, denied reports that he was "sacked" because he was accused of extortion. "That is not true. That is very disheartening especially after all my hard work here," he said yesterday. "That is not the reason he was taken out of the city police," NCRPO director Vidal Querol also told reporters. "I think it was just a routine reshuffle," Mayor Marides Fernando told the INQUIRER.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Transport leader killed

A TRANSPORT group leader was shot dead on Wednesday afternoon by two men on board a motorcycle on Bagumbong Road, Caloocan City. Rolando Satarapan, 48, was declared dead on arrival at the Novaliches Hospital while his wife Amelia, 40, was seriously injured. Satarapan had replaced Rey Bautista as president of the Tenoro Tricycle Drivers Association in Barangay Bagumbong, Caloocan after the latter was killed by still unidentified gunmen almost a year ago. Bautista's case has yet to be solved. "We have yet to determine the motive of the killing," said Chief Insp. Jose Valencia, head of the city's investigation unit. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

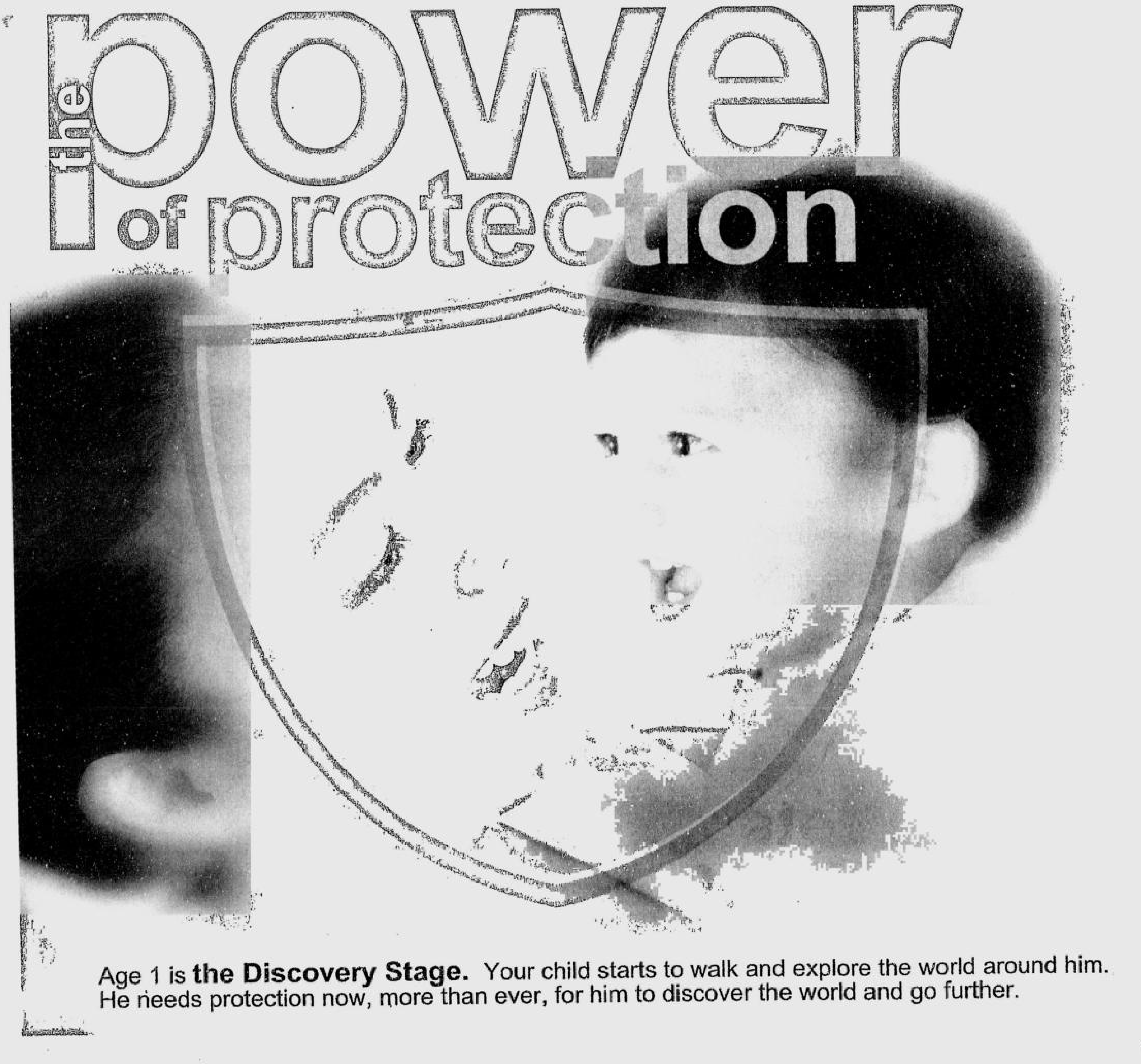
Fire hits junk shop

PANIC gripped a neighborhood in Pilar Village, Las Piñas City after a fire hit a junk shop shortly before midnight Wednesday. No one was hurt in the incident. According to city fire marshal Senior Insp. Robert Pacis, the fire could have been triggered by an unattended kerosene lamp. "The owner said they did not have electricity when the fire broke out," Pacis told the INQUIRER yesterday. He estimated the damages at P50,000.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Soroptimist induction

PRECY Enciso, news correspondent and former Manila Bulletin columnist will be inducted today as president of the Soroptimist International, Manila Tourist Belt for 2006-2008. Also to be inducted: Lita Hizon, president-elect (2009-2010); Elvie Bajador, 1st vice president; Meya Velez, 2nd vice president; Tessie Samson, recording secretary; Fely Borje, corresponding secretary; Sylvia Evangelista, treasurer; Mila Sapader, assistant treasurer; Julie Bertoso, auditor; Gloria Mañosca, P.R.O.; Cely de Jesus, Ida Morales, Fe Dajalos, Vilma Litem, and Melda Magtoto, directors. The induction will be held at 6 p.m. at the Manila Pavilion Hotel.



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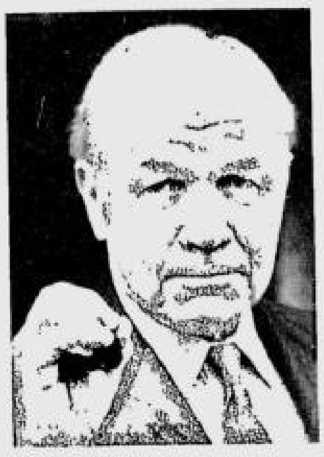
Enron's Ken Lay dies awaiting fraud sentencing



LAY in April photo. AP

WASHINGTON—ENRON founder Kenneth Lay, convicted of fraud and conspiracy in one of the largest corporate scandals in US history, died Wednesday while awaiting what was expected to be a long prison sentence.

Lay, 64, was pronounced dead at a hospital in the mountain resort town of Aspen, Colorado, early Wednesday after a medical emergency, the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office said.

An autopsy determined he had died of heart disease and found no evidence of foul play, the coroner's office said at a press conference.

"Apparently, his heart simply gave out," Steve Wende, a pastor of the First Methodist Church Houston, the church Lay attended, said in a message to church members.

"Right now the family and those close to him are just in shock," Wende told AFP in a telephone interview. "He looked to be in good health and positive (spirits). None of us saw this coming."

The former Enron chairman and chief executive had been with his wife Linda at a vacation home in Aspen, the only place he was allowed to travel pending his sentencing in federal court in Houston, Texas.

Lay and former Enron CEO Jeffrey Skilling, 52, were convicted of setting up an elaborate scheme to deceive investors over Enron's crumbling finances prior to what became at the time the largest corporate bankruptcy in US history.

Sentencing for Lay and Skilling had been set for Oct. 23 after their conviction May 25 in a Houston trial culminating a four-year investigation into one of the most complex accounting schemes in the history of corporate crime.

Evidence presented at the trial showed that between 1989 and October 2001, Lay sold some $300 million in Enron stock even as he urged employees of the company to keep buying shares as the company hurtled toward collapse in late 2001.

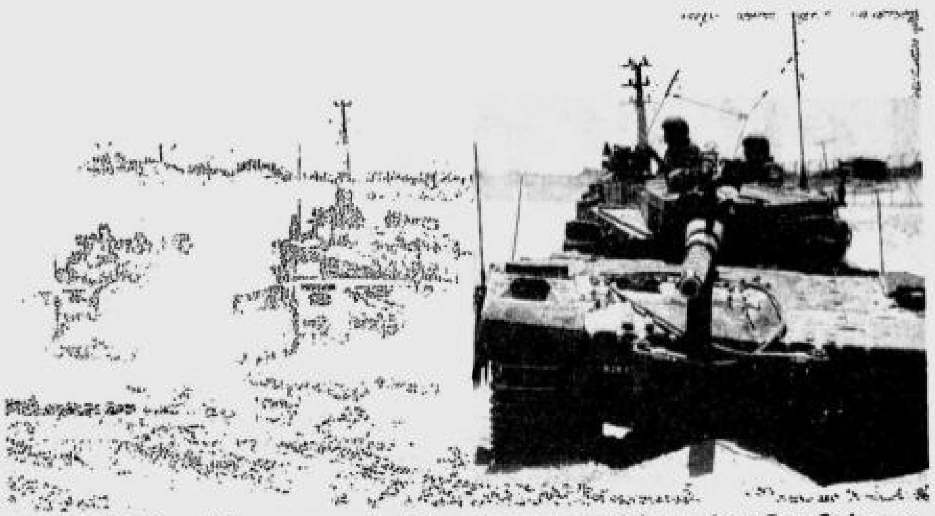
Although Lay had been known for his smooth demeanor, he became irritated during his trial testimony and observers said he failed to persuade jurors of his sincerity.

Lay maintained his innocence after the trial, arguing that Enron was a sound company brought down by a cash crunch when the company's credit line dried up.

"I firmly believe that I am innocent of the charges against me, as I have said from day one," Lay said on his personal website after the verdict. "I still firmly believe that to this day. I. will continue to work diligently with my legal team to prove this."

Lay's death came as the US Department of Justice was preparing to seize the assets of Lay and Skilling following their conviction. The Washington Post reported that the government was seeking over $182 million from the two executives, arguing that their homes and other assets were acquired through fraud. *AFP*

Israel expands Gaza offensive



A CONVOY of Israeli Army armored vehicles advances toward the northern Gaza Strip near the Israeli village Netiv Haasara, July 5. AP

GAZA—ISRAELI FORCES SEIZED CONTROL of former Jewish settlements in the northern Gaza Strip on Thursday, effectively carving out a buffer zone after Hamas Islamist militants fired rockets into a major Israeli city.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert ordered the expansion of the Gaza offensive, which began last week with the main goal of bringing home a captured soldier, after makeshift "Qassam" rockets hit Ashkelon, 12 km inside Israel.

Backed by fire from helicopter gunships, tanks moved into the ruins of three of the 21 Jewish settlements evacuated when Israel left Gaza last summer after 38-years of occupation.

Rockets are often fired from the former settlements.

One Hamas militant was killed in an air strike in northern Gaza. Palestinian gunmen took up positions and planted bombs, preparing to confront the Israeli army.

"Our presence there doesn't mean that we intend to remain in the Gaza Strip. We simply want to prevent firing at our towns," National Infrastructure Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, a member of Olmert's security Cabinet, told Israeli Army Radio.

The military said in a statement Israeli forces would stay in the area "until the completion of their mission" and called on Palestinian civilians to stay clear of combat zones.

Israeli political sources said Olmert had effectively decided to carve out a buffer zone to halt rocket attacks. But the prime minister's office said the offensive would not amount to reoccupying parts of the strip long-term.

Rockets hit Ashkelon, a city of 115,000, on Tuesday and Wednesday. It was the furthest point hit by the missiles, which cause few casualties but spread panic.

The stepped-up incursion in northern Gaza has intensified pressure on the Hamas-led government, already facing Israeli threats over the abduction of Cpl. Gilad Shalit on June 25.

Hamas gunmen were among those who seized him.

"We won't sink in the Gaza swamp, but will enter any necessary area to carry out our missions," Defense Minister Amir Peretz said on Wednesday.

The Gaza violence has dampened enthusiasm for Olmert's plan to give up some isolated settlements in the occupied West Bank, while strengthening the main blocs there. Olmert's opponents say the lesson from Gaza is that giving up land may not bring peace.

Palestinians seek at least the West Bank and Gaza, captured in a 1967 war, for a state with Arab East Jerusalem as its capital. Hamas is sworn to destroy Israel.

Israeli aircraft kept up nightly raids on Gaza, firing missiles at militant training camps and roads.

A total of 11 Palestinians, almost all of them militants, have been killed since the offensive began. Israel has also detained dozens of Hamas officials, applying pressure to the government already under an international aid embargo.

Hamas accuses Israel of trying to topple its elected administration, an outcome that would certainly please Israeli leaders. President Mahmoud Abbas, a moderate from the Fatah faction, has also urged Israel to stop its operations. *Reuters*

3 accused of trying to sell Coke secrets to Pepsi

WASHINGTON—US AUTHORITIES WEDNESday charged three people with a cloak-and-dagger scheme to sell secrets from Coca-Cola to soft drink arch-rival PepsiCo, which helped in the investigation.

The justice department said a criminal complaint named Edmund Duhaney, 43, and Joya Williams, 41, both of Georgia, and Ibrahim Dimson, 30, of New York, with wire fraud and unlawfully stealing and selling trade secrets from The Coca-Cola Co.

The offer of "confidential" information from Coca-Cola sparked an FBI investigation with an undercover agent offering $1.5 million in cash.

The investigation was launched after PepsiCo turned over to its cola rival a letter in May from a person identifying himself as "Dirk," who claimed to be employed at a high level with Coca-Cola and offered "very detailed and confidential information," a justice department statement said.

Coca-Cola contacted the FBI, which launched the probe leading to the arrests.

PepsiCo senior vice president for public relations Mark Dollins confirmed that his company alerted Coke to the scheme.

"We only did what any responsible company would do," Dollins told AFP. "Competition can be tough, but we must always be fair and legal."

The three were to appear before a magistrate in Atlanta, Georgia, on Thursday.

"We are committed to protecting the intellectual property that is so critical for our corporate citizens to remain successful in the 21st century economy," US Attorney David Nahmias said.

"Theft of valuable trade secrets will not be tolerated, not by the justice department and not even by competitors, as this case shows. We commend PepsiCo's good corporate citizenship, The Coca-Cola Co.'s immediate referral to law enforcement and subsequent cooperation."

According to authorities, an FBI undercover agent met June 16 with Dimson, who was posing as "Dirk" at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta. *AFP*

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Nido 3+ is not a breastmilk substitute but a growing up milk specially suited to healthy young children from 3 years onwards.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Leftist now leads in Mexico recount

OBRADOR REUTERS

MEXICO CITY—A recount of Mexico's presidential vote gave the advantage to a fiery leftist early in the day on Wednesday but around midnight a conservative former energy minister was gaining as Mexicans headed into a fourth day without knowing who their next leader would be.

In scenes reminiscent of the Florida recount in the US presidential vote in 2000, first one candidate and then the other had the upper hand as the recount proceeded into early Thursday.

Leftist anti-poverty campaigner Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador was ahead all day but then saw his lead cut back to a sliver late on Wednesday.

Well-heeled supporters of former Energy Minister Felipe Calderon, many waving blue, white and orange flags in joy, began celebrating at the ruling National Action Party offices around midnight as he appeared to be rapidly gaining ground as results came in from north and west Mexico, his strongholds.

Officials said it was still too close to declare a winner.

With 95 percent of polling stations reporting results of their recounted ballots, Lopez Obrador, a former mayor of Mexico City, led pro-US free trade advocate Calderon by just 0.57 percentage points.

Calderon was judged to have won a preliminary count earlier this week by 0.6 percentage points, but Lopez Obrador cried foul and protests broke out in the capital to press claims that he was the victim of fraud.

Lopez Obrador warned of trouble if the recount was not handled properly. "The stability of the country is at stake."

Mexico's stock market plunged 4 percent and its peso fell against the dollar because of the political tension.

The Harvard-educated Calderon is a pro-business lawyer and would be an ally of the United States in Latin America, where left-wing leaders critical of Washington have taken power in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Uruguay and Venezuela in recent years.

Lopez Obrador says he wants good relations with Washington but has promised to renegotiate a North American trade pact to block cheap US corn and beans entering Mexico as of 2008.

"It's more exciting than the World Cup," said Jeronimo Aguirre Cruz, a Zapotec Indian lawyer watching news of the recount on television at a bar in the city of Puebla. *Reuters*

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WORLDBRIEFS

13 killed in suicide attack on Iran pilgrims in Iraq

KUFA—A suicide car bomber blasted two coachloads of Iranian pilgrims outside a Shiite Muslim shrine in Iraq at dawn on Thursday, killing 13 people and wounding 41, police and hospital sources said. The attack came a day after the US military warned that al-Qaida's supposed new leader in Iraq, following the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in a US air strike a month ago, could launch a new campaign of car bombings. The bomber drove his car between the two Iranian coaches as they arrived at the Maithem al-Tamar shrine in Kufa, a religious center on the outskirts of the main Shiite holy city of Najaf, 160 km south of Baghdad, police said. Police said several Iraqi children, who make a living wheeling invalid pilgrims in carts at the shrine, were also caught in the blast. Many sleep there, waiting for business. *Reuters*

Dodos killed by natural disaster, scientists say

PORT LOUIS—Scientists who unearthed a mass dodo grave in Mauritius say they have found evidence showing the birds were killed by a natural disaster long before humans arrived on the Indian Ocean island. Most theories about how the dodo became extinct blame early settlers who found the plump flightless bird on the Indian Ocean island in the 16th century and hunted it relentlessly. "There are indications that the fossil-rich layer represents the result of natural disaster wiping out a significant part of the Dodo-ecotope," a statement by the researchers said. While the latest find does not disprove the human theory, the scientists are convinced there was a mass dodo death, possibly caused by a cyclone or flood, pre-dating the arrival of humans, Christian Foo Kune, owner of the site, told Reuters. "The fact that there are such a wide range of animals there, small and big ones, suggests that there was a sudden natural disaster," Foo Kune said. "The mass grave also shows no domestic animals, so it is prior to the arrival of man." Unused to predators, the dodos were not frightened of the human settlers who hunted it and destroyed the forests that provided its habitat. Passing ships also brought rats, which ate the birds' eggs located in nests on the ground. *Reuters*

Crew probes Discovery for damage after launch

HOUSTON—Astronauts aboard space shuttle Discovery conducted a painstaking inspection of their spacecraft on Wednesday, using a sensor-laden robotic arm to look for damage after launch from Florida on a mission critical to the shuttle program's future. Nasa executives said flecks of insulating foam flew off the orbiter's problem-plagued fuel tank during Tuesday's Fourth of July takeoff, but that Discovery looked to be in good shape. The shuttle's seven crew members spent their first full day in orbit scanning vulnerable parts of the ship's heat shield for any sign of damage from possible debris impacts during Tuesday's liftoff. Foam shedding from the fuel tank triggered the 2003 Columbia disaster. The problem reoccurred during the first post-Columbia mission last year. "Overall, the tank performance was really outstanding," flight director John Shannon told reporters in a briefing late on Wednesday. Before Discovery's flight, Nasa engineers removed two long foam wind deflectors from the tank, changed insulation around heater wires and extended coverings over metal brackets that previously had been shielded by the deflectors. *Reuters*

Italian spy chiefs arrested

ROME—Two Italian spy chiefs were arrested on Wednesday and a judge issued arrest warrants for four Americans over the alleged CIA kidnapping of a terrorism suspect in Milan in 2003, officials said. Three of the Americans were alleged CIA agents and the fourth worked at a US military base in Aviano, northern Italy which prosecutors believe was used to secretly transfer the Muslim cleric out of Italy. A statement from the Milan prosecutor's office said police arrested Marco Mancini, the No. 2 at Italy's Sismi military intelligence agency, and were holding him in jail for his alleged role in the kidnap. Another Sismi official was placed under house arrest. The police sweep ties all the suspects to the 2003 abduction of Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr, also known as Abu Omar. Prosecutors say he was seized by a CIA-led team on a Milan street in broad daylight, bundled into a van and driven to the Aviano air base. He was then flown to Egypt and, according to Nasr, tortured under questioning. An Italian court has already issued arrest warrants for 22 suspected US agents over the abduction *Reuters*

WHAT'S INSIDE
Federer cruises to semis/A26

SPORTS

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Purefoods shoots for 2-0 lead

GAME TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
7:10 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull (Game 2, best-of-seven Finals)
Game 1—Purefoods d. Red Bull, 101-97

By June Navarro

ASIDE FROM GAINING headway, a victory in the opener of a long series has no other compelling significance.

That's why Purefoods will be facing Red Bull in Game 2 today at the Cuneta Astrodome with the same conviction it showed at the start of their best-of-seven championship duel Wednesday night.

"It's nice to go up 1-and-0, but the only advantage I can see is that we only had a good start," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio, after the Giants survived the Bulls, 101-97, in Game 1 of the Gran Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup Finals.

"At least we only have to win three games now while Red Bull still has to win four."

Kerby Raymundo nailed a floater from 15 feet out with 30.9 seconds left to preserve the last-minute heroics of Richard Yee and the Giants' stunning form in the first half.

"Our mistake was we only competed in the second half," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao. "That's the big lesson we've learned and we'll certainly play with a lot more energy specially at the start on Friday."

The Bulls stormed back from 19 points down in the third quarter and set up the whirlwind finish through Lordy Tugade, Enrico Villanueva, Topex Robinson and Larry Fonacier.

"We caught up with Purefoods but a few breaks went against us," said Guiao, who is in his first all-Filipino championship stint. "The positive side of it was, if we didn't give up 19 points, we had a pretty good chance of winning.

"We have to compete for 48 minutes, not just 24."

Guiao and his men are going for a season title sweep following Red Bull's win over the same Purefoods squad in the Fiesta Conference last February.

After Sunday's Game 1, competition among the top MVP contenders also became stiff.

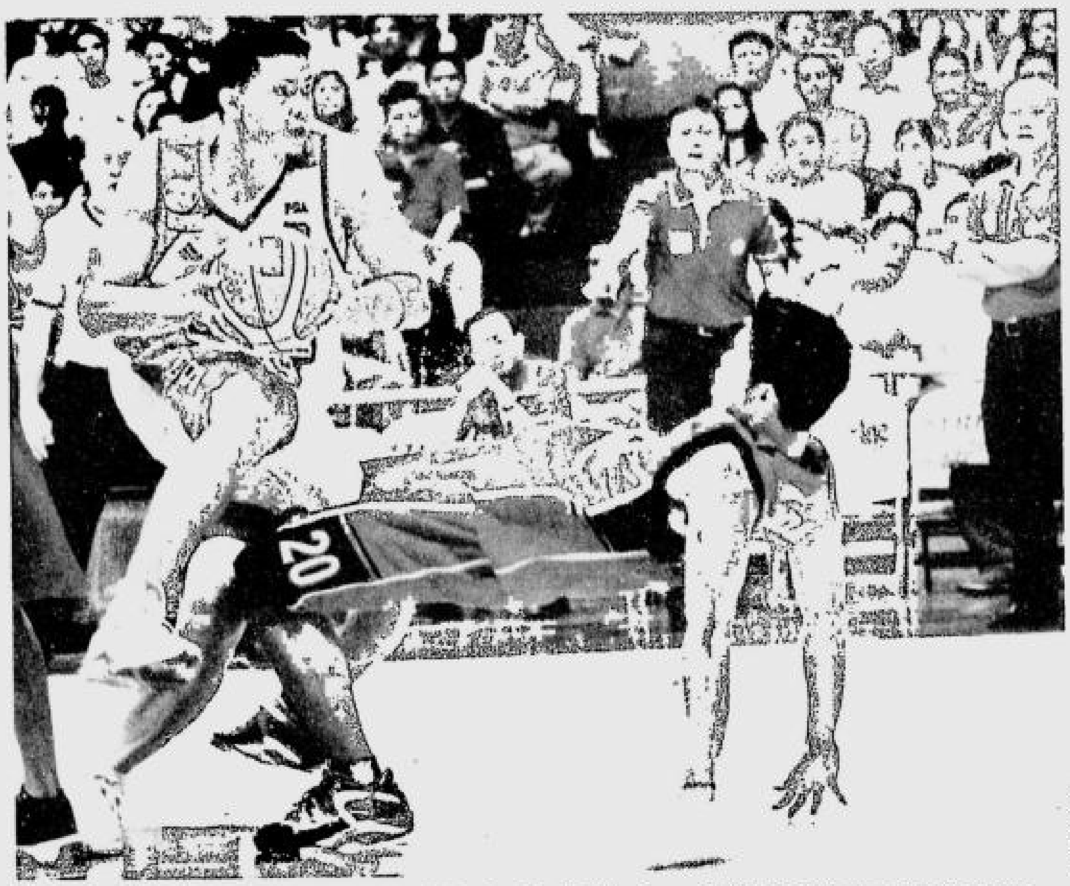
Raymundo finished with double-double figures of 30 points and 10 rebounds. James Yap scored 26 before fouling out, while Tugade and Villanueva combined for 55 points.

"Nobody will give an inch," said Gregorio, who also credited his bench for the Game 1 victory. "The most important thing for us really is to find ways to win in the end."

Peter June Simon, Arnold Gamboa and Paul Artadi had several sparkling moments filling the shoes of the jittery Noy Castillo, Roger Yap and Marc Pingris.

Pingris, who only had four points and four rebounds in 35 minutes, was taken out of his comfort zone as he stalked Tugade all night.

"We have to challenge Red Bull to a shooting match but come winning time, we have to make the stops," said Gregorio. "Making the necessary stops is our trademark and being complacent is our stumbling block."


ERIK ARAZAS

PUREFOODS' Jun Limpot charges into Leo Najorda of Red Bull in Game 1 of the PBA Finals at the Big Dome.

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LARIOS: No regrets

Larios: Pacman 'like a machine'

"MANNY PACQUIAO is a great boxer, and although I felt that I hurt him in the third round, I could not follow through."

The former World Boxing Council super bantam champ praised Pacquiao's performance, citing the Filipino southpaw's strength and impressive speed in an interview with BoxLatino upon his arrival in Mexico yesterday.

"I can testify that he (Pacquiao) is a machine," Larrios said, adding he reeled from Pacquiao's "very hard" punches and "great physical strength."

"I lost, well, but no regrets," added Larios, who suffered two knockdowns and lost by unanimous decision to Pacquiao in their 12-round fight for the Filipino's WBC International super featherweight title last Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum. *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*

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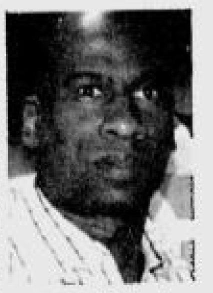
Ateneo Eagles more balanced minus Tenorio


BLACK: We're fine

By Jasmine W. Payo

CAN UNPREDICTABILITY LEAD THE Ateneo Blue Eagles to the UAAP men's basketball title?

With the departure of main man LA Tenorio, the Eagles will be leaning on a bunch of veterans who played in the shadow of the star point guard.

But for Ateneo coach Norman Black, that's still a good thing.

"We'll be a little more difficult to read this year," said Black. "We're trying to develop a personality where we can win fast and we can win slow."

The Eagles are expecting more hustle plays from forward JC Intal, Ateneo's King Eagle this season.

Tenorio's old backup, Macky Escalona, has been elevated to the starting five, along with guard Chris Tiu, sophomore center Rabeh Al-Hussaini and fifth-year forward Doug Kramer.

"We're a more balanced team this year," said Black. "We don't have to rely on one player to determine the outcome of the game."

The 6-foot-4 Intal was the team's second-best scorer, next to Tenorio, last year, averaging 11.1 points and 6.6 rebounds.

Kramer also displayed impressive form, norming 8.9 points and 8.4 rebounds for the Eagles, who lost to arch rival La Salle in the Final Four.

"We're fine," assured Black. "Each year is a different story. Last year was the year of LA. We're a different team now. One person doesn't really determine the success of a program or a team. We have other veteran players who are ready to step up."

The Eagles have only two freshmen this season—guard Eric Salamat, who won the Finals Most Valuable Player plum with NCAA juniors champion San Sebastian, and shooter Eman Monfort from Ateneo Iloilo.

"We want to up the tempo, we want to run," said Black. "We want to pressure the ball defensively. We don't want to be stuck with a half court offense. We want to keep it fast-paced."

"We also want to utilize our size," added Black. "We're one of the bigger teams in the UAAP. And the fact that I've been (with Ateneo) for one year now, the guys are more familiar with my system."

Rookies set to stir Lions vs Cardinals

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	3	0
PCU	3	1
San Beda	2	1
Mapua	1	1
Perpetual	1	2
St. Benilde	1	2
S. Sebastian	1	3
JRU	0	2

GAMES TODAY *(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)*
12 noon—St. Benilde vs San Sebastian (Jrs/Srs)
4 p.m.—Mapua vs San Beda (Srs)

PINNING ITS HOPES ON two exciting rookies, San Beda guns for its third straight victory against Mapua, even as St. Benilde and San Sebastian attempt to bounce back today in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Focus will be on towering center Nigerian Samuel Ekwe and daring Davaoeño guard Pong Escobal when the Red Lions face the Cardinals at 4 p.m., after the 2 p.m. match between the Blazers and the Stags.

The 22-year-old Ekwe, a marketing sophomore, has been getting attention because of his fine moves down low where his turnaround jumpers are hardly challenged.

"There are a lot possibilities we are facing with this guy around," said San Beda coach Koy Banal of the 6-foot-9 Ekwe, who was brought to the country last year by a Filipino priest and is averaging 10 points, 13 rebounds, two assists and one steal so far.

The 6-foot Escobal's barreling drives are slowly earning him respect in a team that includes big names like Rogie Menor and Yousif Aljamal. The former Holy Cross off-guard is averaging 12 points and 7 rebounds per game.

Banal said that since his lineup is a combination of old hands and fresh faces, the team's campaign is anchored on greater teamwork.

Both the Stags and the Blazers are hoping to recover lost ground following their recent defeats to the Lions (71-57) and the Letran Knights (81-73), respectively.

Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN BEDA'S prized Nigerian rookie Samuel Ekwe (right) maneuvers in the paint off St. Benilde's Jeffrey Libunao in a recent game.
RYAN LIM

Irok lady booters grab Futsal solo lead

IROK FOOTBALL CLUB, WITH MARIGEN Ariel scoring twice, humbled Far Eastern U, 6-3, to grab the lead in the women's division of the 2006 Adidas Futsal Championship at the Adidas Sports KAMP at The Fort in Taguig City.

Francine Ruffy, Ria Tanjangco, Simonette Gaspay and Ria Villa chipped in a goal each to hand Irok its third win in as many matches in the event sponsored by Adidas in cooperation with the National Capital Region Football Association.

FEU absorbed its first setback in four matches and fell into a tie with a 3-0-1 win-draw-loss record for second place with idle defending champion La Salle.

Vintage FC whipped Los Borrachos, while Superfriends blanked Miriam College, 12-0, in other women's matches. Vintage moved up to fifth in a tie with Archers 650 (2-1-1), while Superfriends improved with a 2-0-1 card.

Superfriends practically toyed with Miriam as Marielle Benitez produced six goals and Kristine Joy Comia scored five. Margret Ranada added another goal for Superfriends.

Meanwhile, the Marines-A, University of Asia & the Pacific, Archers Luce and Lions FC hammered out lopsided wins over separate foes in the men's side.

Raymond Billones scored four goals for the Marines-A, which clinched its first win in the men's Second Division-A at the expense of Los Merengues, 10-5.

Los Merengues absorbed its fourth loss and remained at the bottom of the heap.

UA&P whitewashed Pagcor, 14-0, for its second win in as many starts in men's Second Division-A. Marc Von Grabowski led the Dragons' assault with five goals while Dodjie Garcia had two.

In Second Division-B, Archers Luce topped Marines-B, 6-2, behind Bixie Reyes and Norman Azarcon, while Lions FC trounced Thonburi, 13-2.

Archers Luce climbed to second spot with a 2-0-2 mark, with Lions FC a close third with a 2-0-1 card. Marines-B dropped to fifth (1-0-2), while Thonburi is still winless after four games.

Bermejo, Batuigas collide for JVC elite crown

GAMES TODAY *(Glorietta)*
11 a.m.—Jrs/Elite Masters (semis, MXD)
12 noon—Jrs/Elite Masters (semis, GS/BS; WS/MS)
2:30 p.m.—Jrs/Elite Masters (semis, GD/BD; WD/MD)

ASSUMPTION'S FRANCESCA BERMEJO AND RINA Batuigas of Iloilo thwarted their respective rivals to forge a showdown for the ladies crown in the elite division of the P1 million JVC Open Badminton Championships at Glorietta yesterday.

The 16-year-old Bermejo, a silver medalist in last year's junior category of this event sponsored by JVC (Phils.) Inc., foiled Diosan Abangan of 4Play, 21-19, 21-16, while Batuigas came through with big winners in the third set to stop Rochanie Decatoria, 21-19, 19-21, 21-16.

They dispute the title and the top purse of P12,000 tomorrow along with the finals in the elite masters, veterans masters and veterans non-pro starting at 11 a.m.

Berths in the finals in the corporate division are still being disputed at presstime with defending champion Philippine Star battling AB Leisure and Robinsons Land clashing with Meralco.

Meanwhile, semifinal action in the elite masters and juniors divisions will be played today starting at noon with top seed Lloyd Escoses and Christopher Flores hoping to arrange an all-FEU finale in the centerpiece event.

Escoses, a veteran internationalist, takes on former champion Ian Piencenaves of Butuan Badminton Club while Flores clashes with Battledore's Melvin Llanes in the other semis match.

Solons take cudgels for exploited boxers

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

BURIED IN THE INSIDE PAGES OF THE NEWSpapers is the story about House Bill 5069 aimed at protecting the welfare of the country's professional boxers.

Called the Flash Elorde Boxing Reform Act of 2006, it is authored by Pasig City Rep. Robert "Dodot" Jaworski Jr. and backed by Quezon City Rep. Annie Susano, Caloocan City Rep. Oscar Malapitan and Pangasinan Rep. Generoso Tulagan. HB 5069 is similar to the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act of the United States, a landmark measure which protects pro boxers not only from ring injuries but also from the machinations of greedy and scheming managers and promoters.

HB 5069 could very well serve like a protective arm around the hapless boxers, most of whom are born poor and unschooled, because it would free them from the clutches of exploitative managers and promoters.

We regularly read of cases of boxers being exploited; of prizefighters not being paid their purses; of boxers being pitted in gross mismatches; of the Games and Amusements Board (GAB) approving the one-sided card and then treating the erring promoters lightly when it is supposed to assure the public that every promotion is balanced and contribute to the enhancement of public interest in pro boxing.

When we read about the boxers' sad plight, we experience a sense of outrage, of shock, sadness and anger—and we ask ourselves why things like this happen. Help, if it arrives, is often too late. But more often than not, help never arrives at all.

On HB 5069, Jaworski said: "Today we have Manny Pacquiao. Yesterday we had Pancho Villa, Gabriel "Flash" Elorde and countless others. Tomorrow we are sure we'll have other boxers who will endure and give honor to our country. It is our duty to ensure that they are taken care of."

The bill also seeks to enforce health and safety measures that will have to be strictly followed during pro boxing bouts. It will also include provisions that will require the full disclosure of the contents of boxing contracts.

Except for the popular Manny Pacquiao, Philippine pro boxing is not enjoying a boom seen during the good old days when the late Justiniano Montano Jr. was president of the World Boxing Council (WBC) and chair of the GAB. During his term (1961-1973), the country had several world champions, including the great Flash Elorde, Rene Barrientos, Pedro Adigue, Roberto Cruz, Erbito Salavarria, Ben Villaflor and Bernabe Villacampo.

Born to a family with a history of fighting oppression, Montano's father, Justiniano Sr., was a fearless senator and Cavite congressman who sought the impeachment of then President Ferdinand Marcos.

The youngest GAB chair at 24, Jun Montano gained international prominence when he was elected WBC president in 1964-66 and reelected to another two-year term in 1968-70. As council president, Montano introduced the four-strand ropes as a safety measure and the three-judge, non-scoring referee format.

The use of the four-strand ropes was implemented during one of Elorde's title fights in 1966 at the Big Dome Nobody among the banner crowd noticed the change until the new setup was announced during a round break. Montano said he experimented with the use of the four-strand ropes following the death of Benny Kid Paret, who fell off the ring at the Madison Square Garden in New York City when the three-strand ropes was still being used.

The use of the four-strand ropes gained popular acceptance and was later adopted by Madison Square Garden. The Olympic Games followed suit, a lasting legacy to the brilliant and creative mind of the Filipino.

On the three-judge, non-scoring referee format, Montano and his longtime friend, talented lawyer Rudy Salud, who served as chair of the powerful WBC ratings and championships committee, decided to give the scoring chores to the three judges so that the referee could control the boxers better. By the way, Salud also drafted the WBC constitution and by-laws. The current president, Jose Sulaiman, was one of those who worked under Montano. Sulaiman assumed the prestigious position in 1975.

Montano died in 1999 at age 63 at his home in St. Louis, Missouri, after a lingering illness.

Enduro SML Adventure finale today

THE GRAND FINALE IS ON.

The country's finest adventure racers start their quest for the championship today in the biggest Enduro San Mig Light Adventure yet.

"This year marks the biggest Enduro series," said race director Neyney Gueverra. "We're overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the racers, some of whom came from the Visayas and Mindanao."

Forty-five three-member teams in the Elite category will compete for the top prize of P75,000 in a 24-hour race that begins in Bulacan and ends in Quezon City.

The Novice category, featuring 65 teams, flags off at 7 a.m. tomorrow at the Quezon City Memorial Circle for the four- to six-hour race.

All teams start en masse from their corresponding base camps—Bulacan and Quezon City—and navigate their way through different tasks in a combination of sequential and non-sequential format.

"Among the tasks are the basics like rappelling, kayaking, biking, running and mind games," said Guevarra. "But to keep the race interesting, we enhanced some tasks so they won't seem such a chore but more of a fun activity."

The annual race is also supported by Asian Spirit, NS Royal, Converese, Habagat and Cebu nightspots Cue Cafe, UH, Patio Escilla, Pump, Yo Latino, Kasadja, Ratsky, Vudu, Formo and Kahayag Cafe.

SPORTSWATCH

La Salle Green Hills Basketball Camp

THE LA SALLE GREEN HILLS BASKETBALL CAMP KICKS OFF ON JULY 15. The program is designed for elementary and high school students ages 7-17. Non-La Salle students are welcome to join. The camp will run for eight Saturdays until Sept. 9. Sessions will be held at the La Salle Green Hills wooden basketball courts 1-3:30 p.m. Registration fee is P2,200, inclusive of a reversible jersey. For more details, call 722-7717 or 721-2000 local 718 for details.

Ford Escape for Makati champ

A BRAND-NEW AND FULLY LOADED FORD ESCAPE WORTH ABOUT P1 million awaits the fastest-win champion in the "Salpukan Sa Taglugon" 5-cock derby which starts this Monday at the Makati Coliseum. The total guaranteed prize is P3 million for an entry fee of P10,000. Backed by B-Meg Derby Ace, the cockfighting spectacle on July 10, 12, 15, 17, 19 and 22 will be hosted by WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. headed by promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co. Orillaza said a participant may choose to field an entry during the 2-cock elimination rounds on July 10, 12, 15, 17 and 19. Entries must be submitted one day before the fight. No straight five cocks will be allowed on any day. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895 -6475.

Cyberfriends back San Juan derby

SAN JUAN COLISEUM'S BLOCKBUSTER DERBY, RAMBULAN SA SAN Juan 5-cocker, slated July 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, and 29, got a boost yesterday after it received support from members of the Cyberfriend cockers. The group's president, Raul Rebel Ebeo, said that members who are based in other countries will join the derby. Cash prizes totaling P3.5 million will be disputed by participants, mostly small-time cockers. Entry fee is P8,800. Earlier, members of the United Backyard Breeders Association headed by Ronnie Lacsina also confirmed their participation. For inquiries, call 725-6563, 725-5369 or 0917-8041691.

Pasay 4-cocker gets going

MORE THAN 60 MATCHES ARE ON TAP IN ANOTHER BIG 4-COCK DERBY today at the Pasay City Cockpit. Hosting the derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 is the Bakbakan group, assisted by pit managers Eric dela Rosa, Butchoy Olano and Roming Vergara. Meanwhile, close to 100 entries have signed up for the upcoming PCC 20th Anniversary 5-cock derby on July 24, 26 and 28, according to Dela Rosa. A prize pot of P2 million awaits the winners. Entry fee is P15,000. Participants will also get anniversary gifts from the PCC management. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Super Duper (1), Bull Rock (6), Mr Quickie (3), Spyder Genteo (5)

Race 2—(Tri)—Marruu (4), Vickyval (3), Iron Heart (1)

Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—In Excess (7), Boss Lady (6), Kryptonite (4), Anndalai (3), Pearl's Magic (5)

Race 4—(Tri)—Aryaam (2), Nice Legs (1), Earl Gray (3)

Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri—Quant Je Puis (2), Dixie Dash (8), Makati Haven/Sansey Forex (9), Mutara (3), Hand-Picked (1)

Race 6—(Tri)—Strong Glory (2), Infinite Passion (4), Rock Attack (1)

Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Tribeca (2), Wrecking Ball (4), Silver Cho Cho (1), First of All (7), Miss Bobon/Expediter (3)

Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Batong Silyar (5), Lord Brian (7), Queen Banana/Reporter (1), Crystal City (2)

Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Silver Place (8), Steel Smasher (9), Dondon's Entry (2), Well Noted/Parrot Moo (1), Power of the Wind (5), Dulce My Love (4)

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two-time Asian champion in women's badminton	CAREER HIGHLIGHT	won Olympic silver for Indonesia in 1996 and won Olympic silver for Netherlands in 2004
Hong Kong	CURRENTLY PLAYS FOR	Netherlands
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DAHIL SMART TAYO

Witness badminton at its best

Federer cruises to semis

FEDERER: Unbeaten in 46 grass matches. REUTERS

LONDON—ROGER FEDERER WAS HANDed the perfect platform for an assault on a fourth consecutive Wimbledon title when he eased into the semi-finals while former champion Lleyton Hewitt crashed out.

Federer, who put out the dangerous Croatian Mario Ancic 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in a sublime Centre Court demolition, was then buoyed by seeing Hewitt knocked out by Marcos Baghdatis while second seed Rafael Nadal was left kicking his heels in the locker room after rain washed away nearly three hours of play.

Nadal will have to play his quarter-final against Finland's Jarrko Nieminen on Thursday. If he gets through that he would have to take on Baghdatis on Friday, an opponent who would have had an extra day's rest.

Federer will face Swedish veteran Jonas Bjorkman for a place in the final, boosted by having won all their previous three encounters and safe in the knowledge that his performance against Ancic was his best of this year's tournament.

"I've been serving excellent, I've been returning good, and especially the passing shots have been incredible," said Federer who has now won 46 matches in a row on grass.

Ironically, Ancic was the last man to beat him here in 2002.

Ancic, who was also beaten by Federer in the French Open quarter-finals, admitted that the Swiss star was virtually unplayable.

Baghdatis sent Hewitt crashing out with a 6-1, 5-7, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 quarter-final win.

Hewitt, the sixth seed, was subdued throughout the two and a half hour Centre Court clash and his service was broken in the opening game in each of the first three sets.

"I played really good and I feel great," said the 21-year-old Baghdatis, the 18th seed and Australian Open runner-up.

Bjorkman became the oldest Wimbledon semi-finalist since Jimmy Connors in 1987 when he overcame Czech 14th seed Radek Stepanek in five gruelling sets.

The 34-year-old Swede saved a match point in a fourth set tiebreak before finally claiming a 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (9/7), 6-4 victory after four hours and three minutes of play that was spread over nearly seven hours because of the two rain interruptions. *AFP*

Longest match ever

LONDON—MARK KNOWLES AND DANIEL Nestor won the longest match in Wimbledon history on Wednesday when they beat Simon Aspelin and Todd Perry in a men's doubles quarter-final clash which lasted six hours and nine minutes. The number three seeds won 5-7, 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 23-21. The previous longest match was a second round singles clash between Americans Greg Holmes and Todd Witsken in 1989 which lasted five hours and 28 minutes. *AFP*

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MILO MARATHON

Roxas hosts qualifier

THE 30TH NATIONAL MILO MARAthon goes to the Visayas on Sunday, when it holds its qualifying run in Roxas City.

More than 5,000 runners are expected to join the 21K elimination race, 5K fun run and Kiddies 3K age-group event.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's divisions of the 21K race will also get berths to the Milo Marathon finals on Dec. 10 aside from trophies and cash prizes. The first placers in the 21K qualifying run pocket P10,000 each.

There will also be P15,000 cash to be raffled on event day. Pat Goc Ong, Milo Events Sports Executive, said a total of P159,600 will be given away as cash prizes.

The foot race, held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Powerbar, will have an unprecedented 30 legs, including the 42K finale, this year.

Local coordinator and Roxas City Councilor Mark Ortiz of the organizing Rotary Club of Roxas City has invited Gov. Vicente Bermejo to fire the starting gun at 6 a.m. and grace the awarding rites at7:30 a.m.

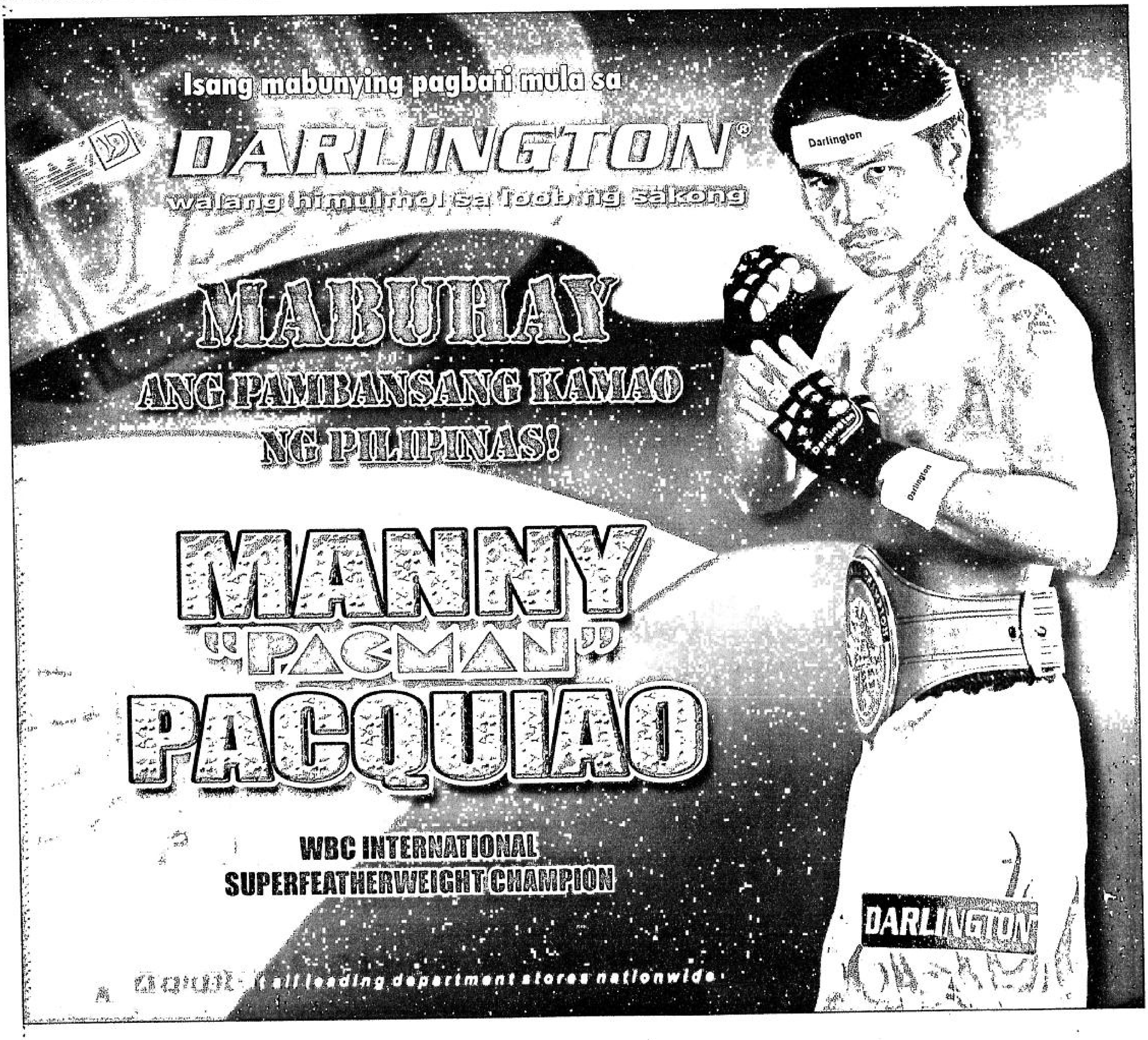
National Milo Marathon race director Rudy Biscocho said that the registration for the 3K, 5K, 10K and the 42K qualifying run in the Metro Manila leg is already in full swing at the ground floor of the Vasquez Madrigal Building at 51 Annapolis St. in Greenhills San Juan. Last day for accepting entries will be on July 12.

France revelry gets fan killed

PARIS—FRANCE'S JUBILATION AT ADvancing to the World Cup final was cut short by the death of a fan in a subway accident in the frenzy following the 1-0 victory over Portugal on Wednesday.

The victim climbed atop a train at the Opera metro station, in central Paris beneath the famed Opera Garnier, and fell at around midnight. Police said circumstances of the accident remained unclear. The incident disrupted traffic while the metro system was packed with people heading home after the match or heading to celebrate.

Most fans remained peaceful but energized, mounting Paris monuments and dancing through streets of several cities. Advancing this far in the tournament has been particularly sweet for a nation beset by malaise—and one that had little faith in its team going into the Cup. *AP*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ENTERTAINMENT

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Movie-TV board lifts 'Lukayo' suspension

By Nini Valera

THE DOCUMENTARY PROGRAM "I-Witness" will be aired again on July 10 after the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board lifted its suspension for the next episode, in a resolution dated July 4 and signed by MTRCB chair Ma. Consoliza Laguardia.

The award-winning weekly documentary program hosted by Howie Severino and aired over GMA 7 was suspended by the MTRCB for two airing dates, starting July 3.

The suspension was brought about by the program's May 22 episode, "Lukayo: Hindi ito Bastos," about a fertility ritual practiced in Kalayaan, Laguna. The documentary showed women participants in the ritual wearing wooden phalluses tied around their waists while singing and dancing.

The suspension, contained in a memorandum dated June 22 and signed by Laguardia, was "effective immediately."

While it complied with the order and did not air "I-Witness" on Monday, GMA 7 filed a motion for reconsideration on the same day, arguing that "Lukayo" did not

MOVIE/ A2-4

OW and Wu

'Amazing Race: Asia' is on

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

KUALA LUMPUR—THE Asian version of the Emmy-winning reality show "The Amazing Race" was launched here on Tuesday by AXN, an international action and adventure cable channel from Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE).

From all indications, AXN pulled out all the stops for this franchise. Ricky Ow, general manager of SPE Networks Asia told Inquirer Entertainment: "It's a multi-million dollar, mega-sized production. At first, we thought it was a mission impossible—logistically, it was a nightmare. We had to move 60 to 80 production people and tons of equipment in a matter of days across different territories."

Apart from the traveling crew, the production employed another 60 to 80 locals in each destination.

Ow volunteered that a month and a half was spent on principal photography. "We are now in post-production; we start promoting the show in six Asian countries on July 8."

First stop is Seoul, Korea. Manila is the penultimate stop in September. Delhi, India, is the last stop in October. No definite premiere date has been set.

Grueling

Just like in the US program, which won three Emmy Awards, the Asian edition will pit 10 to 12 pairs in a grueling race in which they have to guess their next destination and outwit each other by coming up with the quickest possible route.

Ow said that over 1,000 aspirants from the Philippines to Nepal sent video auditions, some "professionally done and polished." The big winners will have US$100,000 between them. (The prize in the US version is $1 million.

"It seems the contestants joined not for the

'AMAZING RACE'/ A2-2

DIRECTOR Khavn dela Cruz with "Larombata" child actors

Cinemalaya may co-produce 'Larombata'

By Marinel R. Cruz

CINEMALAYA INDEPENDENT FILM Festival organizers are considering co-producing the full-length animated film "Larombata" days after it was disqualified from the forthcoming competition.

"We decided to at least find a way by which the director could still finish the film and avail of the rest of the seed grant," competition director Laurice Guillen-Feleo said during the festival launch on Wednesday. "But [the film is] definitely not ready for competition. We have not even seen a rough cut."

"Larombata" director Khavn Dela Cruz has reportedly received P300,000 of the P500,000 grant.

The movie was dropped from the roster after Dela Cruz failed to submit the final copy on May 30, the deadline set by the organizing committee (Orgcom). According to "Larombata" producer Chits Jimenez, it was caused by problems with animators.

"We will encourage the filmmaker to finish the film and exhibit it out of the competition and the festival," said CCP president Nestor Jardin, who is also festival director.

Festival monitoring chair Robbie Tan said the

CINEMALAYA/ A2-2

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Cinemalaya may co-produce 'Larombata'

From page A2-1

Orgcom "believes in the project," which is why the group would like to meet with Dela Cruz and Jimenez, to discuss "certain conditions."

Tan said Cinemalaya Foundation head Tonyboy Cojuangco, who has "the final say," is expected to be present in the meeting. Cojuangco is also co-owner of the Philippine Multi-Media Systems Inc. (PMSI), a major festival sponsor.

"It has potential," Tan said of the film. "Its director has carved a name in the independent film industry. Dela Cruz's works have been shown in various festivals abroad. We would like to support him."

In an email to INQUIRER Entertainment last week, Dela Cruz said his group needed at least three more weeks to complete the animation feature "to meet our aesthetic standard."

The Orgcom earlier dropped another finalist, "Mga Anino sa Apuhap," after its writer and project proponent, Jon Lazam, failed to complete requirements.

The festival runs from July 17 to July 23.

'Amazing Race: Asia ...

From page A2-1

money, but for the bragging rights. It's their passion," Ow said quite seriously.

Acquiring the franchise, he noted, was a wise business decision. "Its first season was watched by 25 million viewers."

Ow was sure the Asian edition had benefited from the lessons of the past nine seasons of the US original. He said he constantly communicated with one of the show's creators, Bertram van Munster (along with Elise Doganieri), throughout production.

Ow said Van Munster had expressed "confidence" that AXN could pull it off. The next franchise is "The Amazing Race Central Europe," which also began filming this year.

He revealed that they had also followed a "production bible—a manual that serves more as a guide than a rule book." He explained: "It makes sure we stick to the spirit of the show, which is that the race cannot be interrupted by anything. Then again, no book can answer all the questions in life."

Allan Wu, a Singapore-based Chinese-American actor handpicked to host the show, agreed: "The unpredictability, the drama and the suspense are but some of the secrets of the show's success."

Wu had bested models, veejays, TV hosts and actors from all over the region.

He is seen on AXN's "Fear Factor" commercial, bawling after drinking 21 shots of pureed "sheep's brain, maggots, stink beetles and rotten fish eyes."

That experience made him "a better father," he jested. "After that, changing diapers is a breeze." He has two children, a 21-month-old Sage and four-month-old Jonas, with his wife, Singapore actress Wong Li Lin.

He admitted that being a graduate of another successful reality show prepared him well for this new assignment. "I'm very much into sports— rugby, cycling, snowboarding, beach volleyball. I also studied Wushu in a Shaolin Temple."

Apparently, his Hollywood training is also helping. Wu explained: "At the pit stop (finish line), I have to be poker faced to keep the contestants in suspense. Are they in or out? It's a tough job, telling people they have been eliminated."

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GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 3:10, 6:20, 9:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 LOVEWRECKED 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 UNITED 93 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SUPERMAN RETURNS 2:00, 5:10, 8:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
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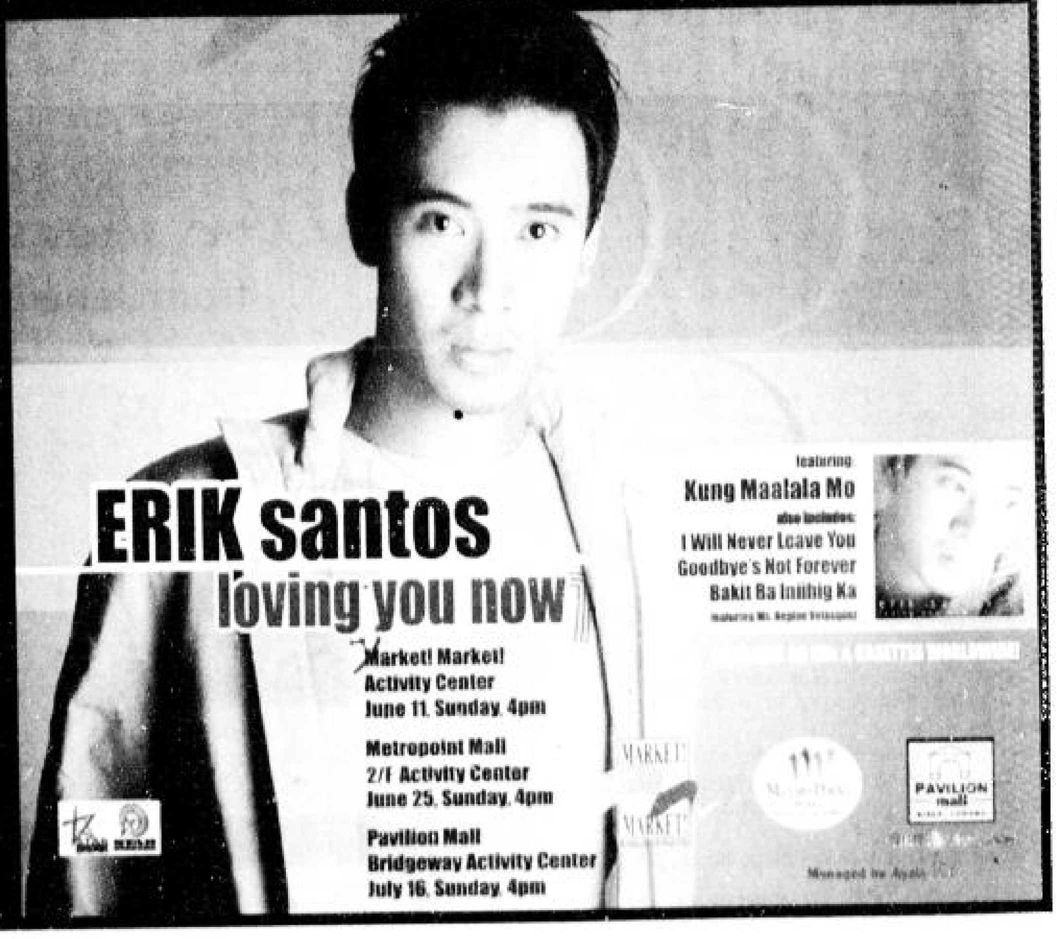

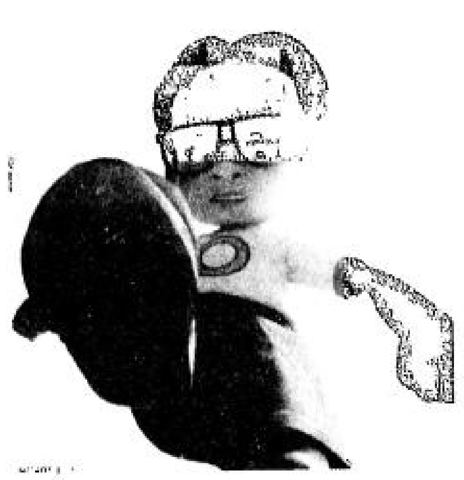

'The Ant Bully'

IN THE FAMILY ADVENTURE, "THE ANT BULLY," 10-year-old Lucas Nickle is shrunk down to ant size after destroying ant hills in his front yard. The boy learns valuable lessons about friendship, compassion, teamwork and loyalty from the ant colony.

From the Academy Award-nominated filmmaker John A. Davis and producers Tom Hanks and Gary Goetzman, the movie features the voices of Nicolas Cage as the Wizard Ant Zoc, Ricardo Montalban as the Head of the Ant Council, Julia Robers as Nurse Ant Hova, Regina King as Gorager Kreela, Bruce Campbell as Scout Fugax and Paul Giamatti as greasy, growling Stan Beals.

KID FIT

Opening soon in local theaters, the movie is distributed by Warner Bros., a Warner Entertainment Company.

Kids' Choice Awards

The Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards 2006 (KCA) preview party happens at the Aliw Theater, City, CCP Complex, Pasay City at 4 p.m. tomorrow, with a live show featuring guest performers like Sandwich and Sam Concepcion.

Hosted by Noel dela Rosa and Alexa Ortega, KCA is the only award show that gives kids the power to vote their favorites in movies, television, music, and sports.

Candidates to this year's "Pinoy Wannabe Awardee," a Nickelodeon Award given to a celebrity role model, are: singer and "Pinoy Big Brother" hotshot, Sam Milby; "Little Big Star" grand champion Sam Concepcion; TV-movie star and commercial model Iza Calzado; boxing champion Manny Pacquiao; and TV host and "Pinoy Big Brother" celebrity Bianca Gonzales..

The event airs on Nickelodeon channel on July 15 at 12 noon.

Musical soundtrack

The "High School Musical" soundtrack is scheduled for a July release in Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines by Walt Disney Records' distributor EMI. The soundtrack includes the movie's hit single "Breaking Free."

A contemporary, "break into song" production, it follows a popular high school basketball star and a shy, academically gifted newcomer who discover they share a secret passion for singing.

"High School Musical" ranked number one in its time slot, beating all other kids channels on June 25. The movie was also the number one Disney Channel show for the day among cable kids 7-12 years old.

'Lilo & Stitch: The Series'

What do you get when you put a crime-busting teen heroine, a wacky family, boisterous fourth grader, a kid that can turn into a fire-breathing dragon and Lilo and Stitch together? The characters Kim Possible, The Proud Family, Recess and American Dragon: Jake Long visit Lilo and Stitch on Big Hawaii Island on "Lilo & Stitch: The Series" tomorrow starting 5:30 p.m. on Disney Channel.

Cook-off on Disney Channel

Will it be the kitchen or the baseball field? Eddie Ogden, the star of his school's athletically challenged baseball team who also loves to concoct culinary creations, is torn between the baseball playoffs and a cook-off competition on Disney Channel's movie, "Eddie's Million Dollar Cook-off" tonight at 7:30.

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R-13

2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:10, 3:40, 7:00, 10:30
G

3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:50, 4:20, 7:45, 11:10
G

4 LAKE HOUSE
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
G

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
MTRCB GP
12.15, 3.30, 6.45, 10:00
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
MTRCB GP
1:30, 4 45, 8 00
3 SEE NO EVIL
MTRCB R-18
1 40, 3 45, 5 50, 7:55, 10:00
4 LAKE HOUSE
MTRCB GP
12 40, 3.00, 5.20, 7 40, 10:00
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11 45 3 00, 6 15, 9 30
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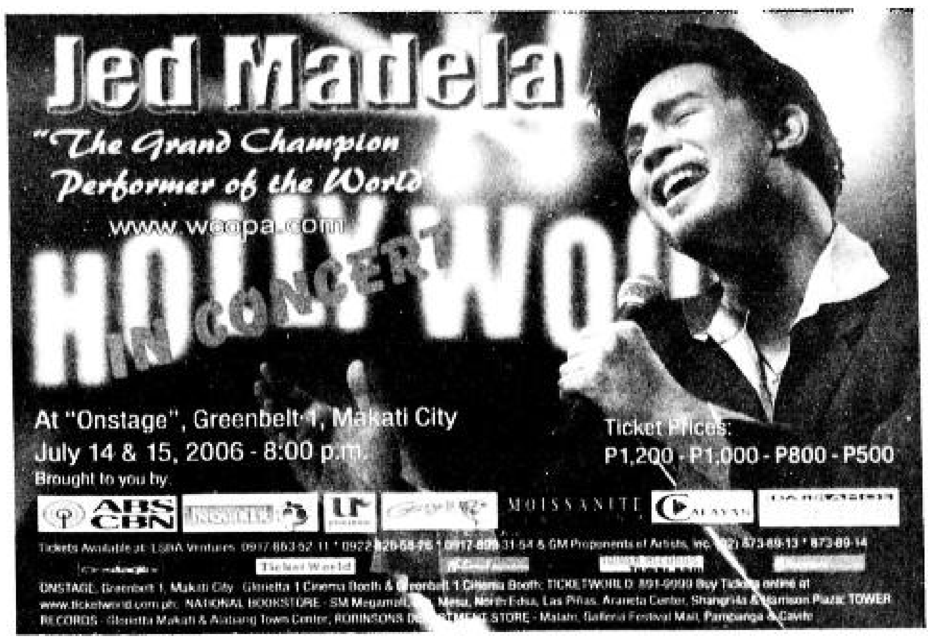

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"ABSOLUTELY EXTRAORDINARY" JULIA KELLER, THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE
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"UNQUESTIONABLY BRILLIANT" AIN'T IT COOL NEWS
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"A MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT" PETER TRAVERS, ROLLING STONE
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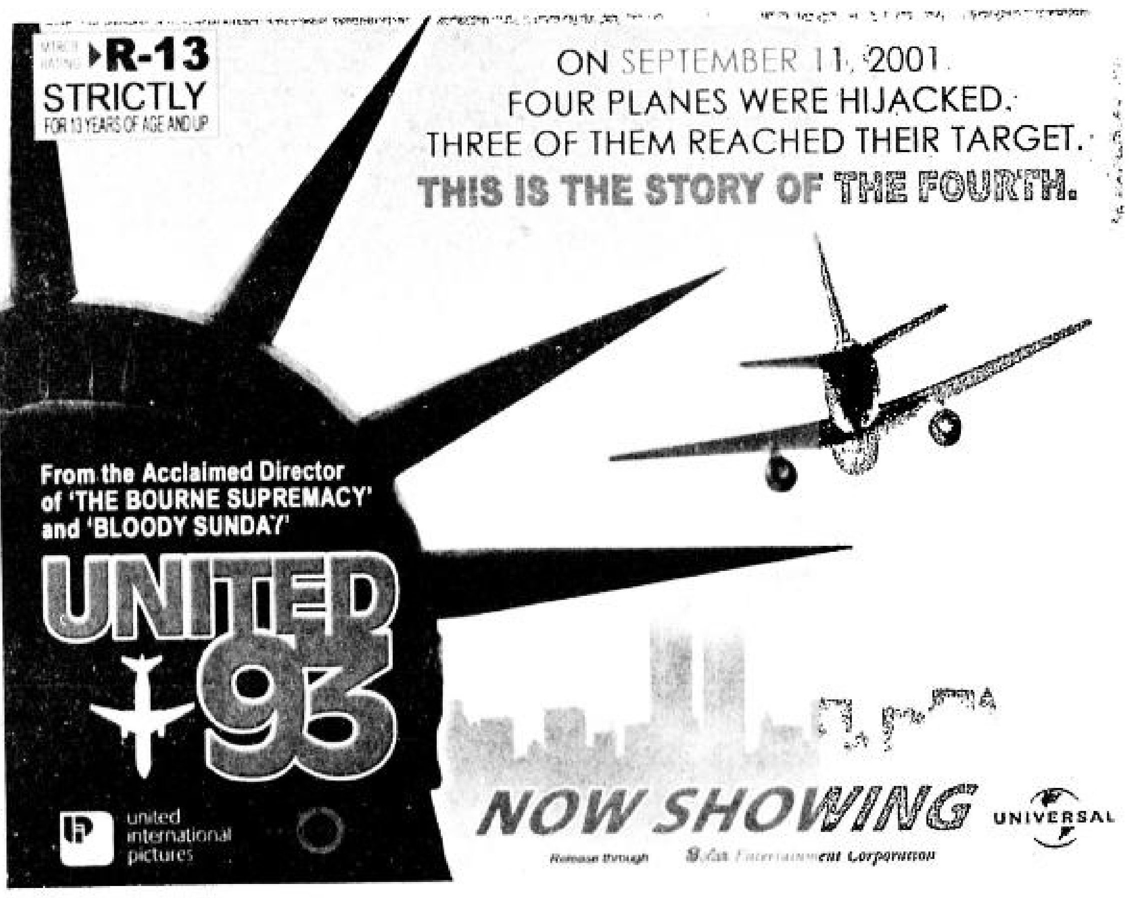
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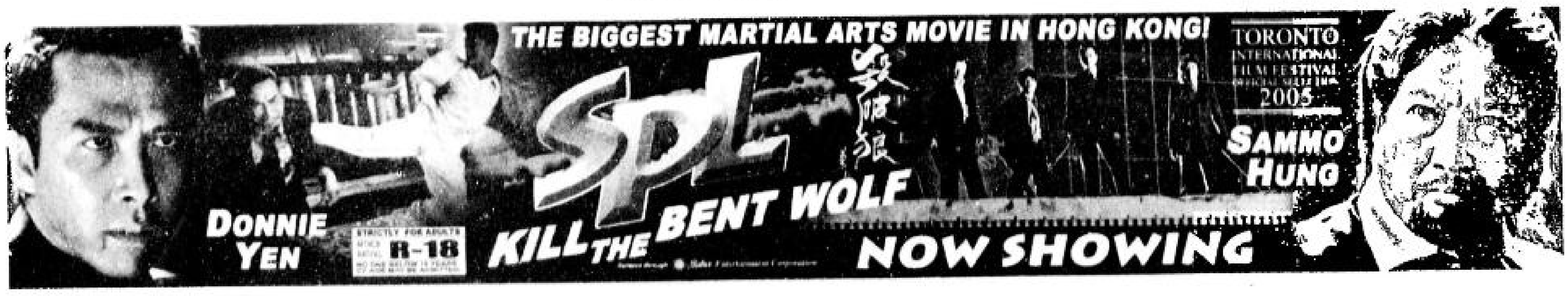

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12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30

2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

3 SEE NO EVIL
11:25 1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00

5 LOVE WRECKED
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

6 UNITED 93
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

7 LAKE HOUSE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

9 SPL
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

10 SCARY MOVIE 4
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:30 3:40 6:50 9:50

2 SPL
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 SEE NO EVIL
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

4 UNITED 93
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 LOVE WRECKED
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

6 LAKE HOUSE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00

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1 THE NUN
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
11:25 2:40 5:55 9:10

3 SEE NO EVIL
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

4 LOVE WRECKED
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

5 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 LAKE HOUSE
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:15 3:35 7:00

8 SPL
12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00

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1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SPL
4 SEE NO EVIL

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576

1 SCARY MOVIE 4
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-6378

1 UNITED 93
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 LOVE WRECKED

WWE Superstar KANE is the new name in TERROR "SEE NO EVIL"

Kane plays the Henchman from Hell Jacob Goodnight. With a rusty steel plate screwed into his skull and razor-sharp fingernails that pluck out his victim's eyes, Jacob is a reclusive psychopath holed up in the long-abandoned and rotting Blackwell Hotel. Eight juvenile delinquents then show up at the run-down hotel for community service duty along with the cop who put a bullet in Jacob's head for four years ago. Jacob hunts them down using a meat hook and chain through a maze of broken-down hallways and rooms. When one of their own is kidnapped by Jacob and her fate uncertain, the remaining delinquents must fight this indestructible force of nature with a violent score to settle.

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2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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2 THE LAST HOLIDAY
3 THE NUN
4 SEE NO EVIL
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
6 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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3 LAKE HOUSE
4 THE RENT
5 TAKE THE LEAD
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Superhero with a lot of heart

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR DECADES NOW, THE HEROIC legend of Superman has captivated the imagination of generations of readers and viewers. What accounts for the superhero's enduring appeal?

His admittedly tall tale speaks directly and subliminally to our need for instant help in times of danger, and redress from the many ills and threats that make life today so stressful.

And yet, Superman's story of super-succor continues to be told, not in realistic terms, but in iconic images far removed from everyday life.

Like its hero, its villains tend to be larger than life, and realistic details are airbrushed away in favor of an epic combination of comic-book simplicity and cinematic technology and sophistication.

This gives Superman a timeless quality that enables him to appeal more strongly to viewers' subconscious.

"Superman Returns," the first film about the Man of Steel in some 20 years, subscribes to this iconic approach, hence its effectivity in connecting with today's viewers.

It also scores plus points in terms of emotions and heart, as it presents a more touchy-feely **Clark Kent** and Superman.

Our hero wears his heart on his sleeve for Lois Lane, but she pushes him away because she has another man in her life—and a young son, to boot.

And Superman has no one to blame except himself, because he abruptly disappeared (for five years!) after their night of love!

The bittersweet romantic interplay between Clark/Superman and Lois keeps **Bryan Singer**'s film on a constant smoulder and simmer that keeps its storytelling emotionally eventful.

Another plus point is the new technology that the movie is able to utilize to come up with unusually thrilling and vivid feats of heroism for Superman.

The performances turned in by **Brandon Routh** as Clark/Superman, **Kate Bosworth** as Lois and **Kevin Spacey** as villain Lex Luthor are also standouts.

On the other hand, the film is excessively dark in terms of tone and emotion, and this occasionally dulls the glint of its psychological iconography.

In addition, the plotting is rather vague, with Lex Luthor's motivation for his evil acts bogged down in an ungainly morass of revenge and thirst for global domination by way of—a huge, instant landfill (huh?).

It's also discomfitting that Luthor has to attend to the production's villainous chores pretty much all by his lonesome. It's true that Spacey is a gifted actor, but even he has a hard time keeping the production's level of evil threateningly high and intense.

All told, however, the film remains view-worthy. And it should be cited for extending the Superman legend one more notch, as it more than hints that Lois young son is also Superman's scion. Hmm, one pre-teen sequel coming up?

Paul Giamatti

AFTER establishing his acting credentials in films like "Sideways," **Paul Giamatti** plays the central character in **M. Night Shyamalan**'s new supernatural thriller, "Lady in the Water."

Giamatti plays the superintendent of an apartment building who suddenly finds a strange woman swimming in the pool at night. He comes to believe that she is an otherworldly character in a bedtime story that everyone in the building ends up having a role in.

Bryce Dallas Howard plays the strange woman, who turns out to be a "narf," a kind of magical creature.

'Stars Are Blind'

PARIS Hilton's "Stars Are Blind" CD Maxi will be released this month. The CD contains the album version and hot remixes of the single, "Stars Are Blind." Paris' full album will be released worldwide on Aug. 7.

The video for Paris' "Stars Are Blind" single was directed by **Chris Applebaum**, who also megged Rihanna's "S.O.S.," **Natasha Bedingfield**'s "Unwritten," as well as Paris' flirtatious Carl's Jr. campaign.

HRITHIK Roshan and [illegible] Chopra

Bollywood Superman

CHEER FACTOR

MUMBAI—BOLLYWOOD'S FIRST SUPERhero has brought super profits to India's prolific film industry.

"Krrish," the story of a Superman-clone who also sings and dances, has topped a series of unconventional movies that have propelled mid-year earnings to about $70 million, one of the best in recent years, industry officials said on Monday.

With more unusual stories set to hit the screens later this year, 2006 could well end up being a dream year for an industry that operates on small margins and is known for making more flops than hits.

"Krrish," which is about a man with superhuman powers who saves the world from a mad scientist, has ended up as the year's biggest earner so far, netting almost $15 million in the opening week, an Indian record. *Reuters*

WWE Superstar KANE is the new name in TERROR "SEE NO EVIL"

Kane plays the Henchman from Hell Jacob Goodnight. With a rusty steel plate screwed into his skull and razor-sharp fingernails that pluck out his victim's eyes, Jacob is a reclusive psychopath holed up in the long-abandoned and rotting Blackwell Hotel. Eight juvenile delinquents then show up at the run-down hotel for community service duty along with the cop who put a bullet in Jacob's head for four years ago. Jacob hunts them down using a meat hook and chain through a maze of broken-down hallways and rooms. When one of their own is kidnapped by Jacob and her fate uncertain, the remaining delinquents must fight this indestructible force of nature with a violent score to settle.

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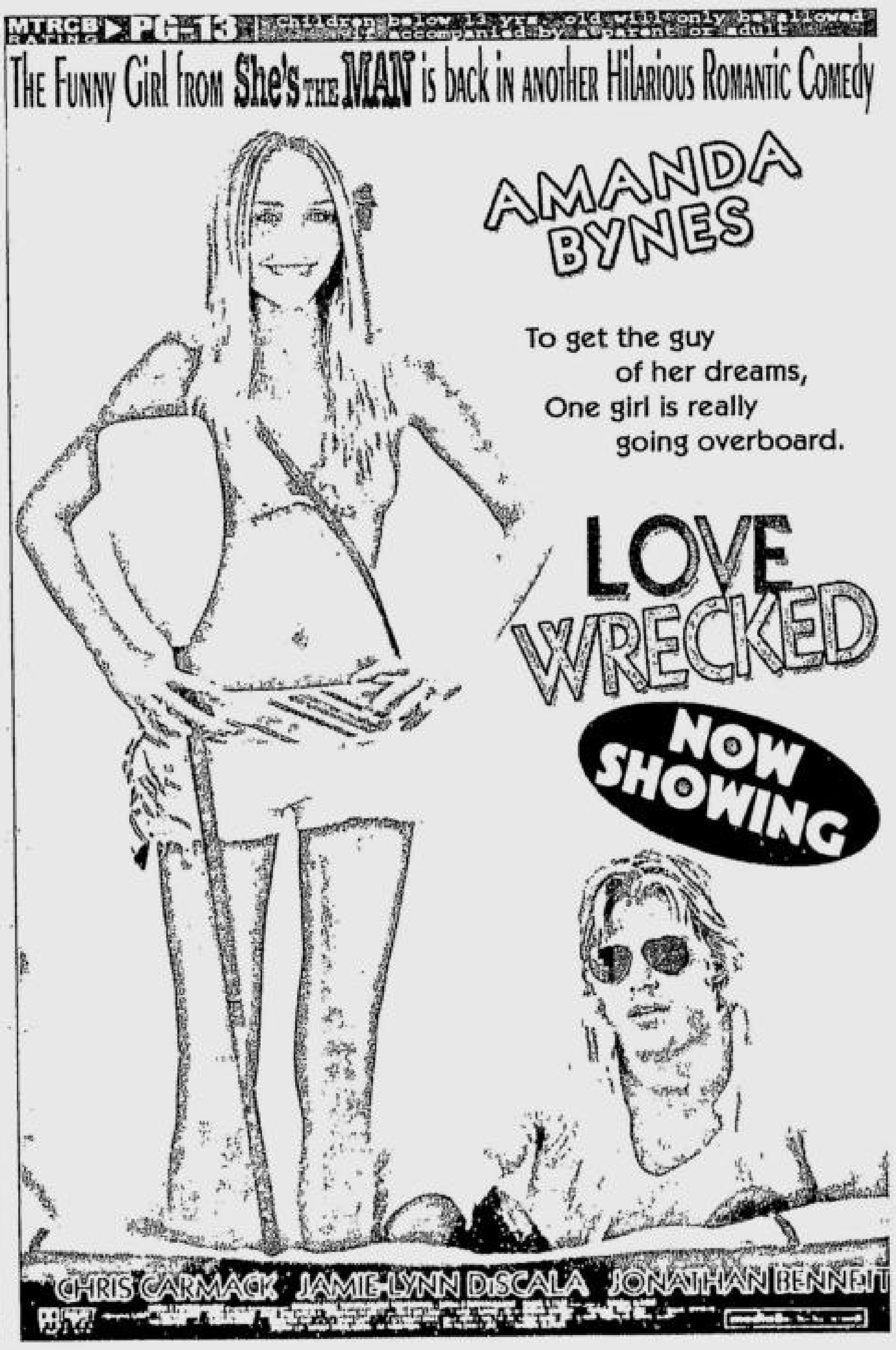

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The Funny Girl from She's the MAN is back in another Hilarious Romantic Comedy
AMANDA BYNES
To get the guy of her dreams, One girl is really going overboard.
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CHRIS CARMACK JAMIE-LYNN DiSCALA JONATHAN BENNETT

Movie-TV board lifts ...

From page A2-1

violate any guidelines set by the Board.

"The program is a documentary," GMA 7 said in the motion, filed through the network's legal counsel Dick Perez. "There should be no dispute that [it] does not appeal to prurient interests ... It should also be remembered that there were no genitals exhibited. What were shown were wooden phalluses, which were part and parcel of a real, live cultural and social event covered by a news and public affairs television program."

In lifting the suspension, MTRCB said it had considered the grounds on which the TV station had based its appeal. It also noted the network's "good faith," illustrated by not airing "I-Witness" on Monday.

But, the Board warned: "This should not happen again."

Kate, Owen, Matt and Dupree

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—AS THE WIFE OF A rock singer (former Black Crowes front man Chris Robinson), actress Kate Hudson can relate to her latest movie's plot of how a man who is allowed to crash on the couch of a newlywed friend ends up being a permanent guest.

In the comedy "You, Me and Dupree," Kate (Molly) and Matt Dillon (Carl) play unexpected host to Dupree, portrayed by Owen Wilson. At first, Carl is glad to have his friend around, even as Molly becomes the object of Dupree's childish pranks. But as Carl becomes too busy with his job, Molly starts appreciating the carefree wisdom and charm of Dupree. Even Molly's dad and her neighbors fall for Dupree.

During a press con at a beachfront Santa Monica hotel, Owen and Matt shared with us stories of Duprees in their real lives. In Owen's case, his Dupree was his own brother, actor Luke Wilson.

"Luke lived with me for a year even though he had his own beautiful house that was less than a mile away," began the blonde Owen, whose twice-broken nose has become part of his charm. "Maybe because he's like the baby of the family, he liked that in my house, everything was taken care of, there was always food in the refrigerators, and there was a housekeeper. So Luke felt like it was being back home in Dallas. During the first couple of months, it was like, 'Wow, it's great to have my brother with me.' We were having a lot of laughs. Then after about six months it was like, 'Luke, you need to go.'"

A lot of 'em

For his part, Matt revealed that he had had many Duprees in his life. "One that stands out in my memory was a rather heavyset guy who was very free-spirited. He liked to walk around in the house in the nude. Needless to say, this didn't go well with my live-in girlfriend at the time. He was like Dupree because it didn't bother him at all."

Asked how he got rid of this Dupree, Matt said, "I think we changed the locks. That's always a good idea. When all else fails, change the locks (laughter). The other rule of thumb is to never make your guest's sleeping quarters too comfortable. Always make sure the bed has some springs popping out."

He continued: "I used to keep wine in my guest room as an excuse to keep the air conditioner very high. My friend, another Dupree, used to call it the meat locker because you could hang meat in there and it would not spoil. He said one time he went into the room and it was snowing. That drove him out ...with bronchitis."

Surrounded

As for Kate, she explained that she had been prepared for a life surrounded by Duprees when she married Chris. It was a typical, down-to-earth remark by Kate who was raised very well by her famous parents, Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell (her biological father is actor Bill Hudson but Kate is closer to Kurt and calls him Pa).

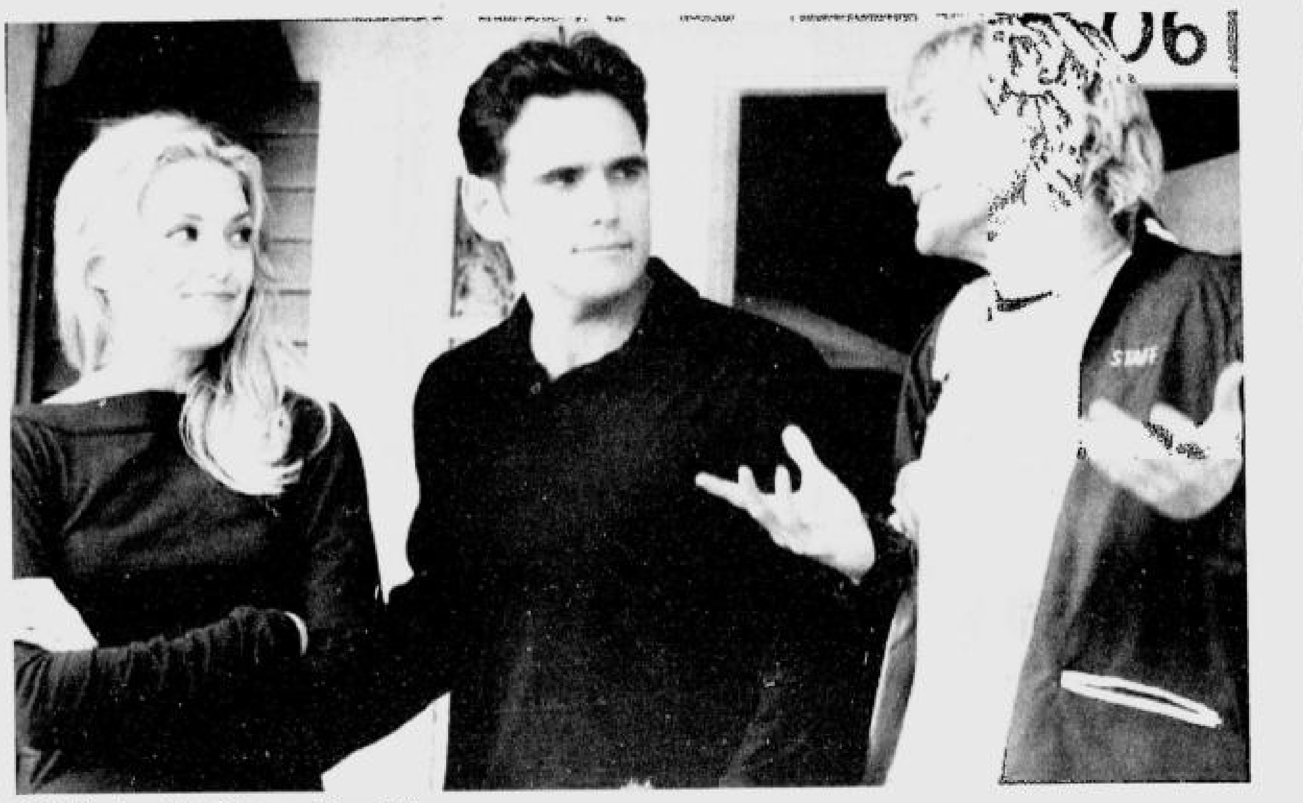
"I knew what I was getting into when I married a musician," said the actress, who inherited her mother's pretty features and bubbly charm. "The band is surrounded by Duprees. I remember when we were living in Paris. I was shooting 'Le Divorce' and Chris was doing a record. The guys in the band were staying with us. I would wake up at 5:30 in the morning to prepare for work and see Chris' friends on the living room floor, having passed out. Beer bottles all over the place, cigarette butts on plates with food still on them. I'd just go, 'Oh God!'

"But unlike Molly, I love that. I love having people feel comfortable enough to be themselves in our environment."

In line with the film's story of a couple trying to make their new marriage work, Kate was asked about her first fight with Chris. "We fought from the very beginning," the 27-year-old actress admitted. "We are very volatile, passionate persons. I remember the first time he broke a chair. He was like, 'You were so unfazed.' I looked at him and said, 'I had just bought these chairs so tomorrow morning, you're going back to the shop and you're going to buy new chairs.' He said, 'Okay.' But thousands of dollars poorer later, he's like, 'I will never break any chairs ever again.'

She continued: "There's just something about fighting passionately. I believe it adds a little fire and you never really get bored. You just love each other so much, sometimes you just want to fight. We haven't lost that yet. But marriage is funny. You go from that stage and then into another stage when all of a sudden, you're like, 'Oh, are we getting too comfortable? This is too easy.'"

Talks of marriage turned to Goldie and Kurt. Are they ever going to get married or do they think doing so would jinx their many decades of happy relationship? "No," was Kate's answer to the first part of the question. "But I think it would just be hysterical if they surprised us and we all thought we were going on a family vacation and they got married. We would all just flip out. But I don't think they'd do it. My mom caught my bridal bouquet. The belief is that when a married person catches a bouquet, it is bad luck. Her best girlfriend immediately was saying, 'Bad luck, bad luck, bad luck.' She whipped it out of her lap. My mom goes, 'But I'm not married.' So maybe it's out there, a lingering thought. I don't know. We'll see. I hope they do it when they're really old. That would be the best.



KATE Hudson, Matt Dillon and Owen Wilson

Non-traditional

"But to be honest, we're not a very traditional family. The common idea of marriage is a religious concept. We're not very religious. So our ideas of marriage, even though it's legally binding, are a little different from what most people's ideas of it are. I was married by a Native American. My brother Oliver was married by a Rinpoche (Tibetan for 'precious teacher')."

Reminded of her scenes in a bikini, her back to the camera, where she could be mistaken for Goldie, she broke into laughter and quipped: "From the back? Interesting. Are you saying that my mom and I have similar tushies?"

On the possibility . seeing her with Goldie or Kurt in a movie, Kate said there are other thing she and her mom are thinking about. "But I would really love to work with Pa (Kurt). I am actively looking for the right project for me to do with Kurt. He's not just my pa, my dad. I am such a huge fan. Anybody who's ever had the opportunity to work with Kurt always tells me, 'You gotta work with your dad.'"

She paused, then added: "Growing up watching him, I've learned a lot—especially how he treats people, how professional he is, how honest and how dedicated to his work. I really want to make him proud of me. I think we'd make a really good team. We'd probably have a blast."

It's a "little more difficult" with her mom, she said, "in terms of what it means for us to work together. Our relationship is pretty special. It must be something that we really want to do. We think that what we would want to do together involves more than just one movie. We are trying to figure out what would be fun for us to do together that would last us a long time. So we're working on something a little bigger."

In the meantime, Michael Douglas, Goldie and Kurt's friend who has known Kate since she was born, gets to play her dad in "Dupree." "To work with Michael was like working with an extended family member," she enthused. "As a little girl, you dream that one day you'll get to work with certain people that you've known all your life. Michael was really the first person that I've worked with whom I've known since I was a little girl. That was really fun for me."

Big family

As for having a second child, Kate, who dotes on two-year-old son Ryder, explained, "I really want to plan on a new one. Right now, I can't because I have a couple of things I have to do. Well, there's no such thing as can't. You never know. I want to have a big family. My dad said to me at my brother Oliver's recent wedding, 'Enjoy every second because your kids were two and a half years old a day before yesterday. I feel like Ryder was just an infant a day before yesterday. Now he wakes up and he tells me everything he needs, wants and desires. I'm looking at this little creature going. Is there anything more fun? Is there anything more worth living?"

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

KAMIKAZEE

King of Blues' final tour

SPIN CITY

MONTREUX, SWITZERLAND—B.B. KING and his guitar Lucille, on a final tour in Europe, has bid an emotional farewell to fans at the Montreux Jazz Festival, where the "King of Blues" has performed for more than 20 years.

Now 80 and suffering from diabetes, B.B. was joined on stage by a host of performers at the end of Monday night's concert in the resort town along Lake Geneva.

Singers Gladys Knight, Barbara Hendricks, Randy Crawford and Leela James, jazz guitarists John McLaughlin and Stanley Clarke, keyboarders Joe Sample and George Duke, and saxophonist David Sanborn paid tribute to the blues icon.

"Maybe I should quit every night," quipped King, who sang and played his guitar while seated throughout the two-and-half hour concert. Reuters

'First Day High'

"First Day High," a pop-punk ditty that captures the mood of the first day of school, is the newest song of rock band Kamikazee.

The "self-proclaimed rockers," who met each other at the UP College of Fine Arts, reminisces about campus life—the giddy excitement and anticipation, the brash, loud hubbub in the corridors and the need to express one's individuality.

They say the back-to-school anthem playing on the airwaves is a tribute to their school days.

In the song, Kamikazee identifies five icons, namely, Sosy High, Nice Guy High, Brainy High, MVP High and Rebel High. They say there's always one present in every campus.

Although known for their quirky humor and the fun they put into their songs, the band isn't afraid to experiment with their sound, trying out new stuff and checking if it works. Their music ranges from NU metal riffs to Britney Spears covers.

Kundirana CD

A commemorative CD was launched during the recent Kundirana 35th anniversary concert at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, which reunited the different Kundirana batches.

The CD contains songs performed on stage during the concert, among them, "You Are My Song" by Louie Ocampo, "Kailangan Kita" by Ogie Alcasid, "Lifting Us Higher" by Gary Valenciano, and "One" by Dingdong Eduque.

Some of the former members of the two-time Aliw Awardee for Best Cultural Group are singers Randy Santiago, Rannie Raymundo, Dingdong Avanzado and Carlo Orosa and musicians Louie Ocampo, Mel Villena, Tats Faustino and Archie Castillo.

B.B. King

Phone interviews among 'Monk' lead actor's numerous phobias

By Joyce C. Abaño

"I DON'T LIKE RATS ... ANY KIND OF rodents; I've never liked heights; and I'm afraid of obscurity."

"Monk's" Tony Shalhoub thus lists his personal phobias, a pittance compared with those of his character on the TV series.

Now in its fifth season, "Monk" is still a novelty for him, Shalhoub says. "I think it's because the character is always in a constant state of discovery. The writers have done a really good job of keeping it fresh for cast and viewers alike."

Shalhoub plays the role of the obsessive-compulsive detective Adrian Monk, who percolates with enough fear, quirks and hang-ups to drive anyone insane. Monk is perpetually worked-up about dirt, germs, heights, hygiene, crowds, neatness, etc.

But Monk is known as a master sleuth in the San Francisco Police Department where he worked before his wife's still-unsolved murder triggered his psychiatric disorders that led to his suspension from the force.

He doesn't see many parallels between himself and Monk. Still, Shalhoub plays the part wonderfully.

"I don't think he's that close to me," he says during this exclusive phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment. "But we have similarities in the sense that everyone has issues, idiosyncrasies and fixations. It's only a question of degree."

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

So annoying!

According to Shalhoub, it has been quite a challenge to make Monk both fascinating and appealing. "At first I thought, this guy is so annoying, so irritating. How do we make this character interesting and likable?"

Monk's complicated nature makes the show a very delicate balancing act. "Too much comedy and you're making fun of the mentally ill. Too much poignancy, and Monk becomes a tragic figure and object of pity," Shalhoub explains.

He adds that "Monk" is really old-fashioned. "By 'old fashioned' I mean more interested in plot and character than camera tricks, sex and gore—it's a wonder it got made at all."

TONY Shalhoub

But after the successful first season and several Emmys later, Shalhoub says, he had solid evidence that he was doing it right. "We've had nothing but positive response to the show," he said. "We were worried that people might think we were exploiting the disorder... but it turns out that the show makes the public see that people who have this disorder can still be productive members of society."

Shalhoub—who finished his master's from the Yale School of Drama and continued his education as a member of the American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, Massachusetts under Robert Brustein—says the best thing about his TV character is vision.

He explains: "Adrian Monk sees the world differently. He sees the in-between objects ... There's a naïveté about him... he's living two or three decades in the past and he has, for lack of a better word, a childlike wonder about people's behavior and about the way things are. He's a little more attuned to everyday things that other adults are a little more jaded about."

Shalhoub, who is part Lebanese and second to the youngest of 10 children, notes that viewers seem to like the severely flawed character. He says he did extra research for the role: "I read a lot about obsessive-compulsive behavior. I actually had a few sessions with a psychologist in Beverly Hills who deals exclusively with obsessive-compulsive disorder. He was really, really helpful."

As one of the executive producers of the series, Shalhoub announces that "Monk" has in store some very surprising episodes for this season. "There's one called 'Mr. Monk and the Garbage Strike,' in which garbage has piled up in San Francisco for three weeks. Can you imagine what Monk has to go through? There's another, directed by Peter Weller, where Monk is asked to become a private eye, with his own office. And yet another where Monk loses his eyesight and has to solve a crime while he's blind."

Friend as co-star

He's particularly happy about the third episode, where the guest stars include his good friend Stanley Tucci. "I've been trying to talk Stanley for years into doing a part but he's always busy. It was good that he's had some free time at last."

In the episode, Tucci plays an actor who's cast as Monk and gets "a little too embroiled in Monk's psyche." Shalhoub adds, "He becomes a little disturbed."

Tucci butts in, "Tony has offered me a lot of roles over the years, every single one of them interesting. The timing was just great for this one."

Shalhoub quips, "And we waited for his quote to go down ... it was way too high!"

Shalhoub, who is married to actress Brooke Adams, says life's been "pretty good." He explains: "We do this series, which is 16 episodes this year, for six months ... not consecutive six months. And I have two teenage daughters who keep me pretty busy. My life is very, very whole right now. But I can't help saying I'm exhausted."

"He's looking forward to an early retirement," Tucci says again, and the two of them engage in some light banter. Shalhoub, ending the interview adds another phobia to his earlier list: "Doing phone interviews ... with a friend."

(Tucci directs Shalhoub on a forthcoming production, "Blind Date," with Patricia Clarkson. Meanwhile, the fifth season of "Monk" premieres tonight at 9 on Star World.)

BAYANI Agbayani, Cesar Montano and Edu Manzano

VICE President Noli de Castro is flanked by ABS-CBN chair Gabby Lopez and EVP Charo Santos-Concio

IMMIGRATION lawyer Michael Gurfinkel, Willie & Liz Revillame

RUDY Fernandez and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada

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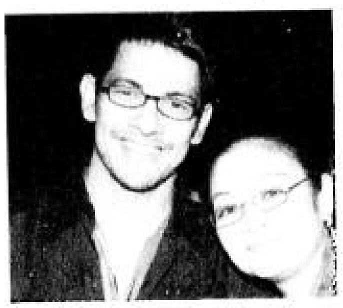

GARY Valenciano and Angeli Pangilinan

LEN Agbayani and Sunshine Cruz-Montano

AIKO Melendez and husband Martin Jickain

Weekend thrill packs a wallop

RUSHES

SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST STARS were caught on cam by celebrity photographer Mandy Navasero at the Araneta Coliseum last Sunday. They were there, of course, for "Mano a Mano." Scan this spread and don't be fooled; they were definitely not this calm throughout.

They shrieked, screamed, whistled; kicked and stomped their feet; prayed and chanted Manny Paquiao's name.

Many more managed to dodge the camera—Senators Ramon and Bong Revilla, Richard Gutierrez, TV news anchors Arnold Clavio and Korina Sanchez (they even sat next to each other). Korina was with Sen. Mar Rox as.

With Claudine Barretto was husband Raymart Santiago; Sharon Cuneta with Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

EDDIE Gutierrez, Daisy Romualdez, Ruffa Gutierrez, Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. and Richard Gutierrez

PHOTOS BY MANDY NAVASERO

Russian victory

"Kubrador" director Jeffrey Jeturian, lead actress Gina Pareño and film producers Joji Alonso and Rogelio Rayala were all in high spirits when they returned on July 5 from a weeklong trip to Russia.

Their movie, which competed in the Moscow International Film Festival, got rave reviews from the International Federation of Film Critics (Fipresci).

"The jury members said they had never seen anything like it," Alonso said. "They said the film looks simple at first glance, and yet it's very complex. The Russian [juror] said every Russian should watch it because it mirrors life in Russia."

LILY Monteverde

EDGAR Mortiz

ANNOUNCER Michael Buffer

CLAUDINE Barretto

ROWELL and Randy Santiago

Anorexic family

LONDON—British film star Keira Knightley revealed on Tuesday that her family has a history of anorexia but the super-slender actress insisted she did not suffer from the disorder.

The 21-year-old admitted that her grandmother and great-grandmother had both developed anorexia, an eating disorder in which the victim starves herself or himself but still thinks they are overweight. *AFP*

Fitting role

LONDON—Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards looks set to play Johnny Depp's father in the third "Pirates of the Caribbean" film, a fitting role for the man upon whom the American actor based his character Jack Sparrow.

"We're all looking forward to the idea of Keith coming in and doing a cameo and it's looking very, very good," Depp, 43, told reporters on Tuesday, the day after "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dean Man's Chest", the second film in the franchise, had its London premiere. Richards, 62, could not be reached for comment. *Reuters*

Complete fraud

GLASGOW, Scotland—Annie Lennox, who found fame as the voice of the Eurythmics and later as a solo act, said Tuesday she felt like a fraud accepting an honorary degree.

Lennox, 51, said it was "exciting" to receive an honorary degree from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. "I'm very happy to be here, even though I feel like a complete fraud." The academy also bestowed honorary degrees on comedian Billy Connolly and actress Tilda Swinton. *AP*

Fell to pieces

LONDON—Australian pop diva Kylie Minogue said she "all fell to pieces" when doctors told her that she had breast cancer.

"I went silent," Minogue, 38, said. "My mum and dad were with me. I was saying: 'No, I'm getting on a plane' (she had been touring). They said: 'No, you're not. Sit down'."

She ventured back onstage a few weeks ago. *AFP*

FROM left: Ambassador Ernesto Llamas, Gina Pareño, Jeffrey Jeturian and producers Joji Alonso and Rogelio Rayala

Mommy Nelly

LISBON—Grammy-winning Canadian singer Nelly Furtado plans to take her 2-year-old daughter Nevis with her as she tours the globe over the coming months to promote her new hit album "Loose."

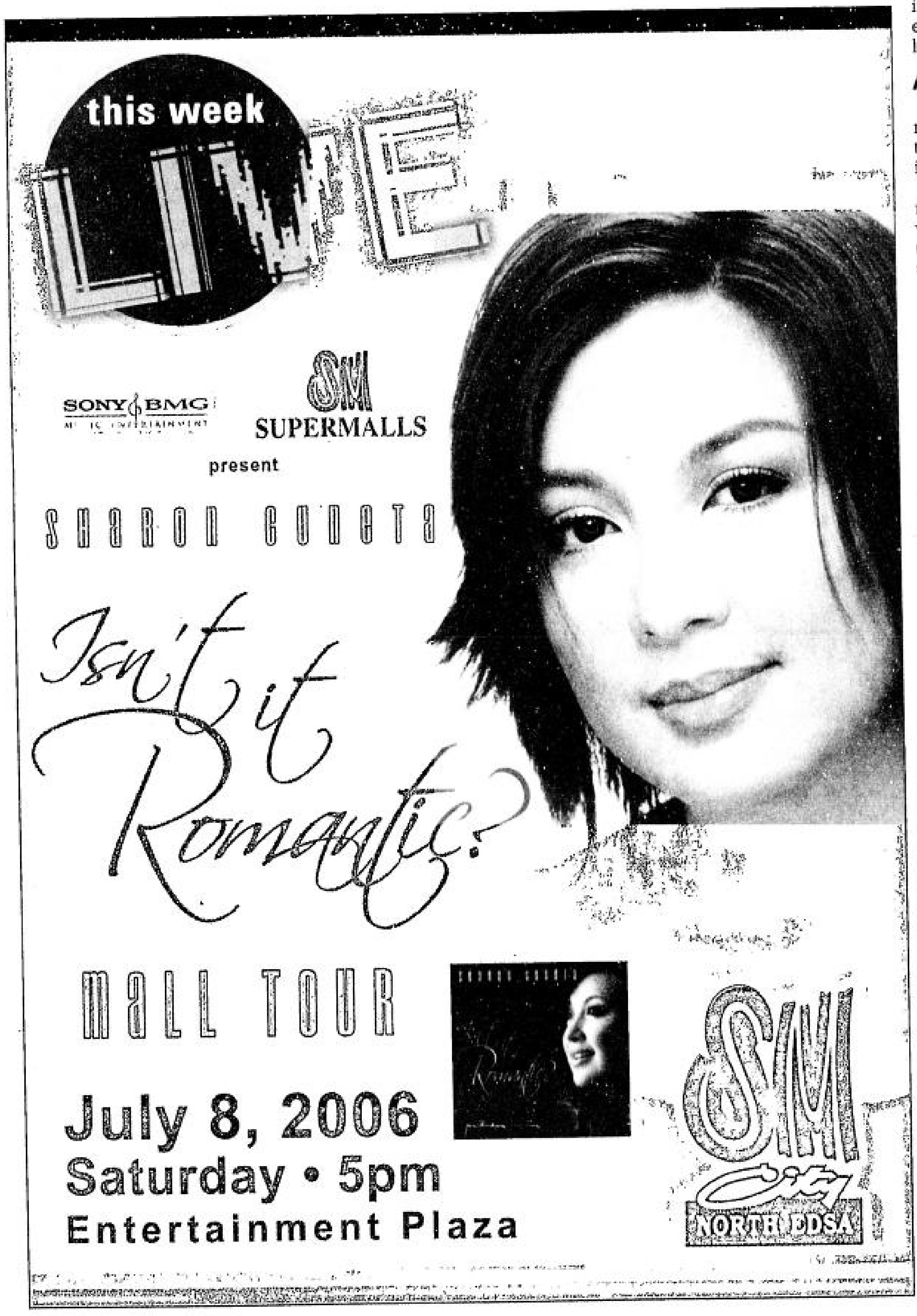
"She loves to travel and today it's easier to fly with children. Conditions are better but it's like a circus. It's crazy but we love it," the 27-year-old told daily Portuguese newspaper Correio da Manha. "Being a mother changed me. I am more feminine, more confident as a woman. It is all very natural." *AFP*

He's free, girls

LOS ANGELES—Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey, who let America pry into their marriage with their MTV reality show, "Newlyweds," have finalized their divorce, a spokesman for the singer-actress said on Saturday.

The marriage of Simpson and Lachey crumbled late last year after three years.

Celebrity magazines reported the two had yet to work out a financial agreement, but Simpson's spokesman, Rob Shuter, refused to comment, except to say, "All I am confirming is that they are now in fact divorced." *Reuters*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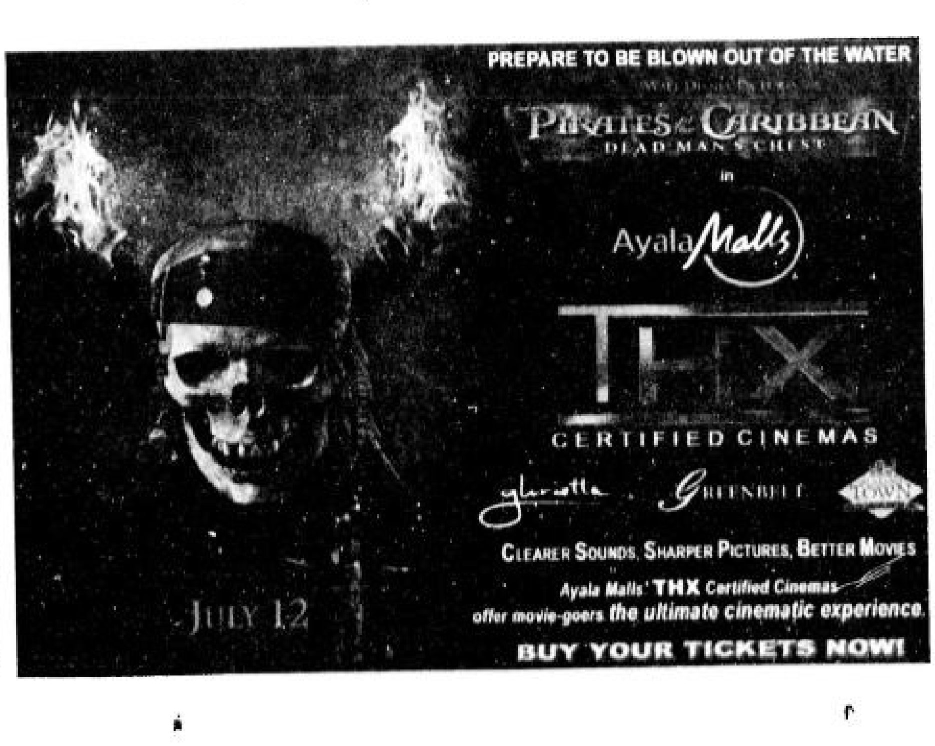
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STARS Living

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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PHOTOS BY LYN RILLON

SHOW STOPPERS

HEAD TURNERS during the recent Star Awards at the Philippine Plaza were ABS-CBN stars (from left) Anne Curtis, in a gown by Miguel Francisco of Njork, Say Alonzo in an Eddie Sy number, and Mariel Rodriguez in a Jun Escario creation.

FAVORITE NOOKS

Guitar corner

CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA: The family chose to retain this area when we had the whole house renovated. I always come to this part of the living room when I want to play the guitar or write something. I also come here to watch movies. Nearby is a couch and an entertainment system.

Marinel R. Cruz

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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What is Superman's birth name?	A. Daily Planet
What gives Superman his powers?	P. The Sun
What can take away Superman's powers?	S. Krypton
What material blocks Superman's x-ray vision?	E. Green Kryptonite
What is the name of Superman's secret identity?	R. Lead
Where does Clark Kent work?	U. Kal-El
Who is Superman's love interest?	N. Lois Lane

How to join? E-mail you answers together with your name, address, age and contact number to movieaddicts_smcinema@yahoo.com or send this page together with your particulars at your nearest SM Cinema branch. All answers must be correct in order to qualify. Multiple entries received will only be counted as a single entry. Deadline for submission of entries is on July 12, 2006.

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XMEN III

SM CITY DASMARINAS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
AMERICAN HAUNTING
LAKE HOUSE
SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY STA. MESA
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LOVEWRECKED
SUPERMAN RETURNS
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SCARY MOVIE 4
LAKE HOUSE
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
THE NUN
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

SM CITY MANILA
UNITED 93
THE NUN
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SUPERMAN RETURNS
LOVEWRECKED
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
AMERICAN HAUNTING
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
SCARY MOVIE 4
LAKE HOUSE
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SCARY MOVIE 4
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
LAKE HOUSE
LOVEWRECKED

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
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INSIDE MAN
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SCARY MOVIE 4
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SUPERMAN RETURNS
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
FAST AND FURIOUS 3

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THE OMEN
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GARFIELD 2
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SM CITY LUCENA
SUPERMAN RETURNS
GARFIELD 2
SUBMERGED
SCARY MOVIE 4

SM CITY CLARK
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SUPERMAN RETURNS
INSIDE MAN
FAILURE TO LAUNCH
SUPERMAN RETURNS
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THE NUN

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CHAOS
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INSIDE MAN
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PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
SUPERMAN RETURN
SUPERMAN RETURN

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TAKE THE LEAD
RESERVED
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FAST AND FURIOUS
LAKE HOUSE
SUPERMAN RETURN
RESERVED
AMERICAN HAUNTING

SM CITY DAVAO
SUPERMAN RETURN
AMERICAN HAUNTING
FAILURE TO LAUNCH
GRANDMA'S BOY
SUPERMAN RETURN
FAST AND FURIOUS

SM CITY CAGAYAN
SUPERMAN RETURN
GARFIELD 2
SCARY MOVIE 4
SUPERMAN RETURN

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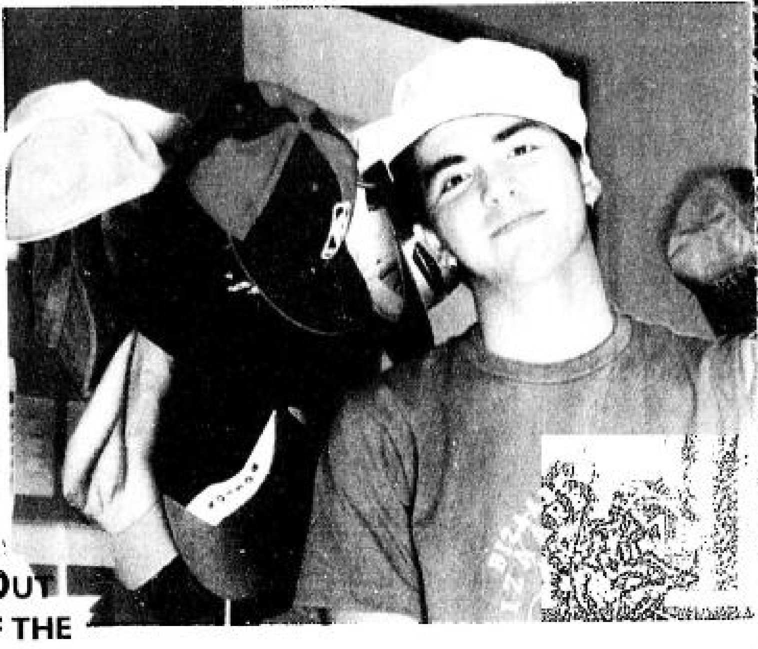
Caps, shoes & jerseys

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan



OF ALL HIS ACCOMPLISHments since he joined show biz three years ago, actor Mark Herras is proudest of having built a home for his family.

The actor moved into the two-story, five-bedroom house in an exclusive village in Quezon City in November.

"I built this on my own," he told INQUIRER Entertainment during our visit. "My parents became victims of a scam last year. They lost a lot of money. I'm working hard so I can help improve our life."

The first male winner of GMA 7's talent search program "Starstruck," Mark stars with ex-girlfriend Jennylyn Mercado in the network's comedy series, "I Luv NY," directed by Louie Ignacio.

Mark said he was happy about how "cool" his bedroom turned out. "Everything inside this room is my idea. I told my dad I wanted a glass door that led to a terrace. I also suggested that the blinds be in black. There are only two colors here—red and black."

Too bad his bedroom closet cannot store all of Mark's stuff. This is why he is now using the extra room for his jackets, suits and, of course, his shoes.

"I collect rubber shoes," Mark said. "I keep track of how many models of Adidas and Nike rubber shoes I have by photographing them and storing the pictures in my laptop."

SHOES

This pair of sneakers from Adidas is very unique. It's called Adicolor. The trademark black Adidas stripes can be changed to white, pink, etc.

I still have the Nike Air Force One I wore on the cover of my "Dance Hits" album. My newest is Nike Shox Vince Carter 4. I also have Kobe Byrant Uptempo. From Adidas, I have this Kevin Garnett pair.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

I collect Jordan rubber shoes, too. I have Air Jordan XXI with replaceable airsoles, Air Jordan Carmelo and Air Jordan IV Retro, my newest Jordan.

The guys at Nike Park in Gateway Mall have asked for my number and promised to text me when new items arrive.

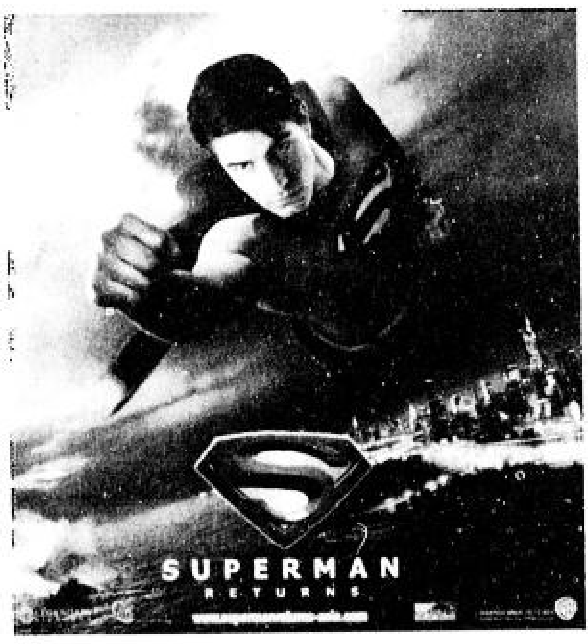
I don't get to wear all of these rubber shoes. When I go out, I'd rather wear sneakers or my Timberland leathers. As a collector, I feel good just knowing I have them in my closet.

TOYS

I started collecting toys when I won "Starstruck." The first one I bought was a collector's edition of Spider Man and the whole Justice League. My most recent purchase is a Juggernaut action figure.

I'm not the kind who spends all his earnings in toys, although I hang out with friends like that. Some of these toys are their gifts to me.

PANTS



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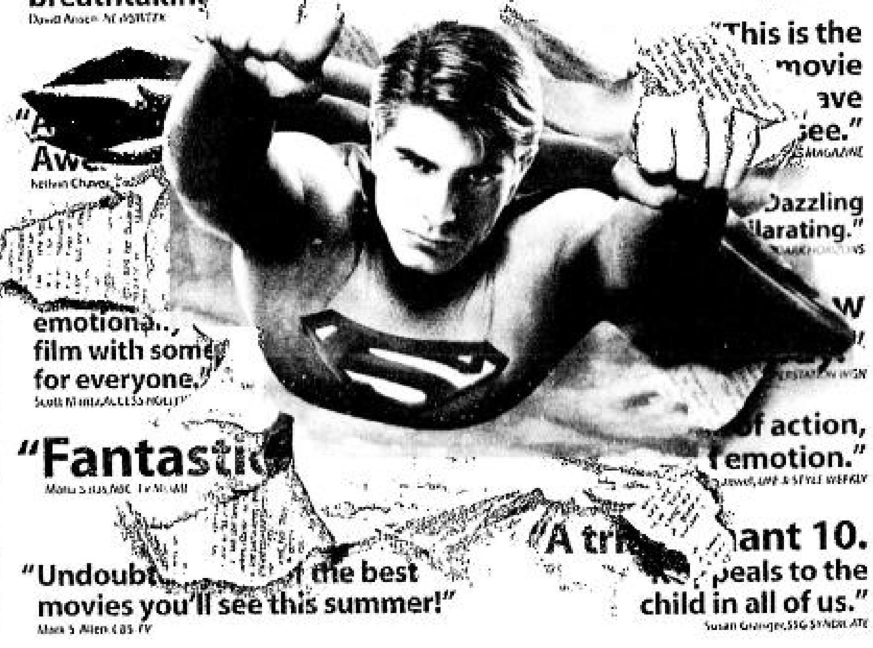
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LEGENDARY

PLANET Hub in Pa
Cristina Gonzalez-
Honasan, second fr

THEY'RE STILL AT IT A decades in the biz.

"It's no joke to last th front man Jett Pangan.

The Dawn recently thre anniversary shebang for th al followers at drummer home.

Jett, JB, lead guitarist

ISAY Alvarez

RADIOACTIVE Sago

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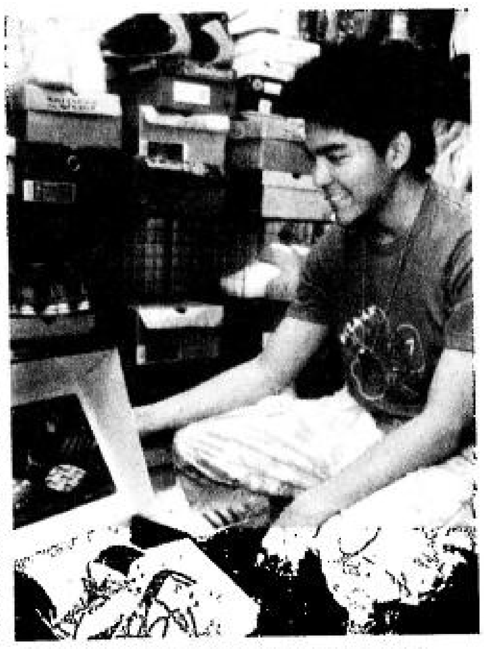
Young star Mark Herras needs another big room for his collections

HATS and caps sort of describe the people who wear them, says Mark.



MARK photographs his rubber shoes and stores the pictures in his laptop.

"I'M not the kind who spends all his earnings in toys," says Mark.

HE was wearing jerseys even before he joined "Starstruck," since he likes hip-hop fashion.

THE THICK black jacket Mark uses when he travels abroad.

I like wearing jogging pants, especially for rehearsals. I like those that are lightweight and water repellant.

This pair of denim jeans is from a friend who just came from China. I've not worn it yet—it's several pieces of denim cloth sewn together, and really, really heavy.

I used to wear nothing but baggy jeans. Now I try to wear straight cuts, like this one (shows a very faded, soft-fabric Abercrombie). Direk Louie has a pair exactly like this.

HATS

I love hats and caps. I bought a lot during our trip to San Francisco to launch GMA 7 Pinoy TV and when we made "I Luv NY" in New York.

Hats and caps sort of describe the people who wear them. Truckers' hats are worn by what we call "punks" or "trashers." Caps with embroidered baseball and basketball logos are worn by hip-hoppers.

I buy all kinds. *Hindi ako namimili.* I also have beanies, bonnets and cowboy hats.

The red baseball cap I wore on the cover of my first album is the most memorable. I don't have it with me anymore. Anton dela Paz wanted it so I gave it to him. I had no idea at the time that the album would go platinum.

TOPS

I like jerseys. I've been wearing them even before I joined "Starstruck." I like hip-hop fashion.

I always wear a shirt under my jersey. *Payatot kasi* (laughs). I bought two or three pieces in the States. The rest are from local shops, mostly American Boulevard.

The tops I consider special are those I bought in G-Unit stores in the US. G-Unit is a rap group led by 50 Cent.

I will never get rid of this button-down shirt, which I bought in high school. I haven't worn it yet. It's still too big for me after all these years.

JACKETS

Rainier (Castillo, Mark's "Starstruck" batch mate) likes wearing jackets more than I do. He actually wants to have this green cotton jacket. I told him it's too big for him.

The really thick black jacket from Tribal Gear is what I wear when I travel abroad. I can wear it with just about anything.

FORMAL WEAR

Too bad I can't find my white suit. I wore it when I hosted a Guillermo Mendoza Memorial Awards program. That was the first time I wore an all-white outfit. I normally wear black suits.

But I still have the blue suit I wore on "Starstruck Finals" night three years ago. Obviously, I didn't choose the color; the production people did.

ig City had a big celeb party for an opening recently. Small wonder, since the Thai Express, inside Planet Hub, is owned and operated by
Romualdez, second from left, who cut the inaugural ribbon, with Zsazsa Padilla, left, and Rep. Imee Marcos, right. Barbie Almabis-
om right, sang for the guests.

20/20 for The Dawn

FTER TWO
long," says
v a big 20th
nds and loy-
JB Leonor's
rancis Reyes

and bassist Buddy Zabala) led the revelry and, before anyone could say "Enveloped Ideas," the party became a rock concert—with Isay Alvarez, Bituin Escalante, Agot Isidro, Rem Zamora and Radioactive Sago jamming with the guys onstage.

Spotted was actress Mylene Dizon, a colleague of Jett's in the theater world—like Isay, Bituin, Rem and Agot.

TV host Manu Sandejas, Agot's hubby, gamely acted as emcee.

Manu is the cousin of Mike Sandejas, writer-director of the Cinemalaya Film Festival entry "Tulad ng Dati" which, the boys say, is the high point of their 20th anniversary.

Jett recounts: "We planned that for almost a year—that the film would be half-fiction, half-documentary. It tells our story."

Did the party come with a soundtrack?

Let these pictures do the… singing!

PARTY! PARTY!

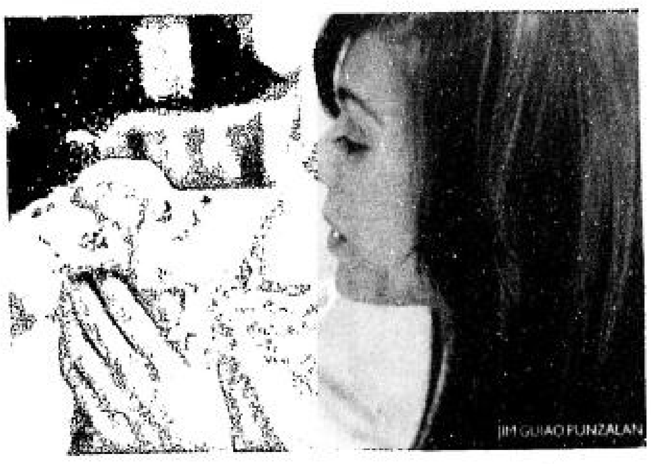
JB Leonor

BITUIN Escalante

MYLENE Dizon

AGOT Isidro and husband Manu Sandejas

THERE'S NO denying the affection between front man Jett Pangan and lead guitarist Francis Reyes—not on a night like this.



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Muyak, the beloved

TAIL TALES

NANCY CASTIGLIONE

I bought Muyak with my ex-boyfriend Bullet Jalosjos. She's a year old now. I named her after my character in "Mulawin" and "Encantadia."

I pamper her a lot. I buy her lots of clothes and accessories. I also make sure she gets her shots from her vet and is groomed regularly.

I don't always bring her to tapings because I don't want her to get tired. Last year, she got hospitalized because she inhaled fumes from the disinfectant that my help used to clean the house. Muyak was on IV feeding for days. She almost died.

Marinel R. Cruz

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4 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
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4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3
6 SUPERMAN RETURNS
7 LOVE WRECKED
8 LAKE HOUSE
9 SCARY MOVIE - 4
10 UNITED 93

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 RESERVED
2 SEE NO EVIL
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 LOVE WRECKED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
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2 LOVE WRECKED
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 SPL KILL THE SENT WOLF
5 UNITE 93

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4 RESERVED

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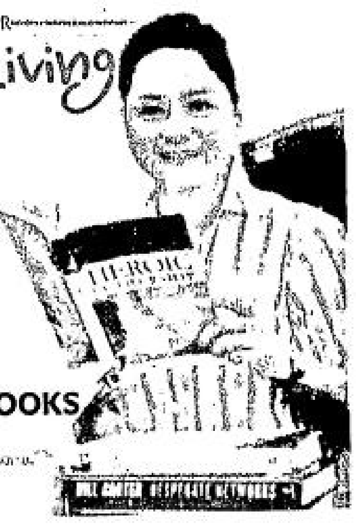
Drawing parallels



CHARO SANTOS-CONCIO:
I'm in the second chapter of Bill Carter's "Desperate Networks." I bring it with me everywhere. It's about the competition of US networks NBC, CBS, ABC and Fox. I see a parallelism (with local networks). There are a lot of entertaining behind-the-scenes tidbits. For example, when NBC's "ER" became a hit, CBS came up with its own medical drama, "Chicago Hope." My other current favorites are "Heroic Leadership" by Chris Lowney and the autobiography "Winning" by Jack Welch.

BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.

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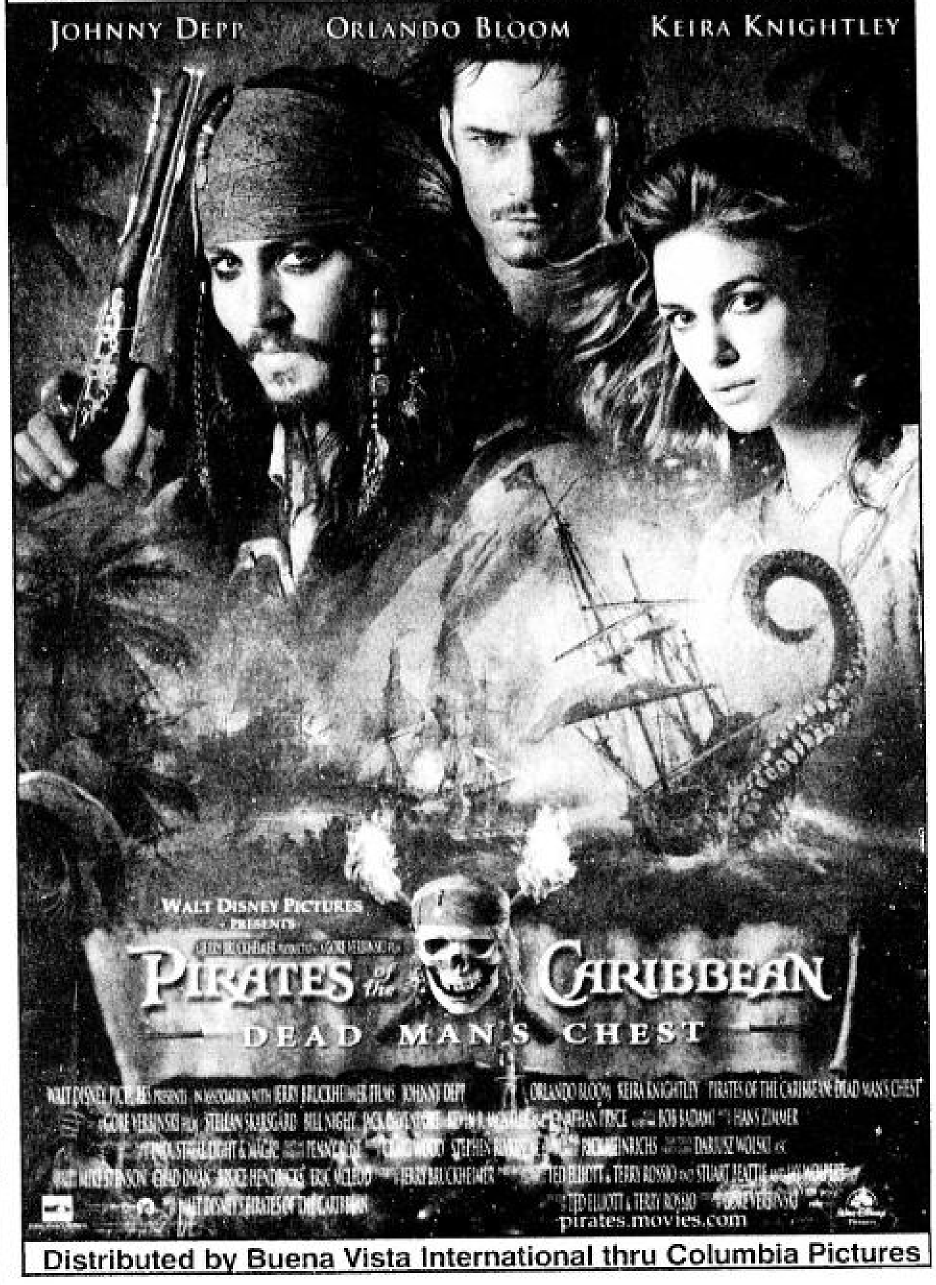

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THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3
2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:35 / 1:10 / 2:25
3:35 / 4:10 / 5:25 / 6:35
7:10 / 8:25 / 9:35 / 10:10

THE LAKE HOUSE
2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40

PLATINUM CINEMA
SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00

Ali MALL 5

SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:15 / 3:10 / 6:05 / 9:00

SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:00 R2 / 2:35 / 5:30 / 8:25

UNITED 93
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- **Third bidding** for Mimosa planned /B4

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BSP probes price-fixing in trade of securities

Traders suspected of 'intervening' in setting of bids

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas is looking into allegations of price-fixing in the secondary market trading of government securities at the height of the recent turmoil involving unit investment trust funds (UITFs).

Banking sources said the BSP's attention was caught by some money market traders who were trying to "intervene" in the setting of MART1 bids to prevent the sharp decline of prices during the massive sell-off of UITFs last May.

MART1 is the formula used by banks to derive the benchmark price for government securities in the secondary market.

Sources said BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. recently sent a letter to the Money Market Association (MART), urging the transfer of control in price-setting to a self-regulatory organization (SRO).

While the BSP welcomed MART's proposed reforms to make the secondary market trading more efficient and transparent, the banking regulators also told MART that it must henceforth directly work with the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

Espenilla's letter was in response to MART's earlier proposal where it suggested reforms to improve the system for secondary trading of government debt paper.

By preventing the sharp decline of bond prices that resulted in the wake of the UITF hysteria, sources said the banks were apparently protecting the net asset valuation of assets being managed by their trust departments.

UITFs are pooled trust funds in acceptable currencies operated by a trust entity.

They are an improved version of the common trust funds (CTFs) now being phased out by the banking system.

BSP/ B4

Terrorist funds, dirty money seen to flow through casinos, charities

DIRTY MONEY AND FUNDS MARKED FOR terrorists are now flowing through non-traditional channels like casinos and even charity foundations—a development members of the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) on Money Laundering are now trying to address during its 9th annual gathering hosted by the Philippines.

"Casinos today are not only the physical buildings you can walk into and make a bet ... there's also Internet betting," said Australia's Federal Police Commissioner and APG co-chair Mick Keelty in a press briefing yesterday. "We're looking at commencing a project on the amount of money that can potentially be laundered through casinos."

Money laundering is the act of converting or transferring and concealing cash or other property derived from criminal activities, and make it appear that it comes from a legitimate source.

"Casinos in most countries have a compliance regime where they do report transactions," Keelty said. "But we're looking into this because of the growth of casinos, particularly the technology platforms that casinos operate."

Eliot Kennedy of the APG Secretariat said four out of nine special recommendations promulgated during the APG meetings focused on methods used to finance terrorism.

"These include the use of alternative remittance systems ... such as cash couriers, nonprofit organizations, charities, and a number of wire transfers," Kennedy said.

APG, which complements the efforts of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force on money laundering in the Asia-Pacific region, was officially established in 1997 during a regional forum on dirty money in Bangkok.

Vicente Aquino, executive director of the country's Anti-Money Laundering Council, said that measures were already being undertaken by local authorities to prevent money launderers and terrorist financiers from using local casinos, nongovernment organizations and people's organizations to channel funds.

Aquino said that although there are "no clear indications" that these cash vehicles are being used to launder money or channel funds marked for terrorist activities, the AMLC is still stepping up its watch over the establishments.

In the case of local casinos under the state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), there is a system of voluntary

TERRORIST/ B4

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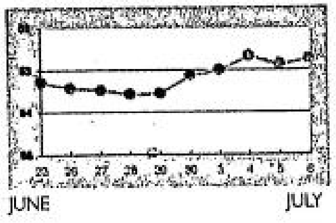

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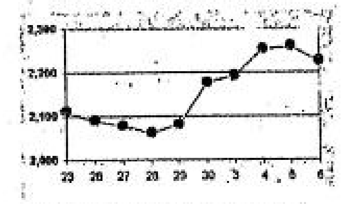
As of 5 p.m., July 6, 2006

¥ 115.56 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 6, 2006

GOLD: $623.40-623.90
per ounce Hong Kong, July 6, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



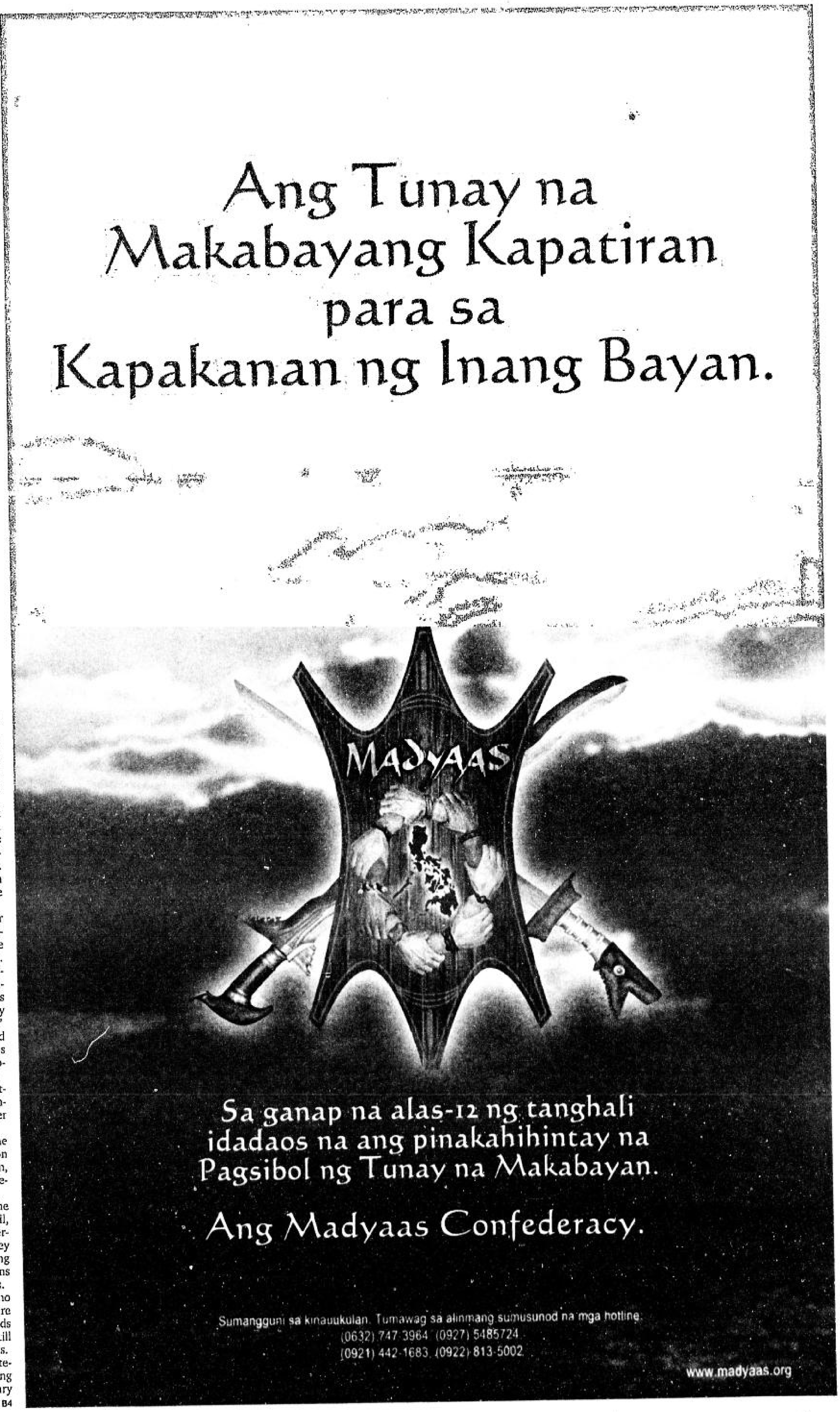
(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares decline 1.52%

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 1.52 percent lower, snapping a five-day rally, on regional security fears after North Korea's missile tests and a fresh uptick in oil prices, dealers said.

The composite index declined 34.49 points to 2,227.85, after trading between 2,224.64 and 2,260.07.

SHARES/ B2



Ang Tunay na Makabayang Kapatiran para sa Kapakanan ng Inang Bayan.

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BPI sells VMC loans to Asset Pool

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Deal brings total BPI bad debt sold to P17.3 billion

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS SOLD its loan exposure in sugar miller Victorias Milling Corp. to Asset Pool A (SPV-AMC) Inc., a special purpose vehicle led by US investment fund affiliate Avenue Asia, sources said.

In a separate disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange late Wednesday, VMC compliance officer Eva Vicencio-Rodriguez said fund manager BPI Asset Management and Trust Group likewise sold to APA their rights, title and interest related to loans to VMC.

VMC said it was informed by BPI of the transfer last June 30.

Avenue Asia is an affiliate of Amroc Investments Asia, one of the largest privately owned debt trading and investment management firms in the United States.

BPI's sale to Avenue Asia included collateral, security interests and mortgage related to loans of VMC.

Officials of BPI and Avenue Asia were mum on the transaction, however, citing confidentiality agreements.

Based on VMC's annual report filed with PSE, BPI has convertible notes worth P12.34 million with VMC.

Sources said BPI had been actively selling some of its bad loans to foreign funds Morgan Stanley and the Avenue Asia Group in the past months.

Last April, BPI sold P6.3 billion worth of non-performing loans to Avenue Asia.

BPI said the latest transaction brings to P17.3 billion its total idle assets sold.

In 2004, Morgan Stanley acquired P8.6 billion worth of BPI bad loans.

Separately, Deutsche Bank Ag London earlier acquired 36.9 million shares of VMC equivalent to 2.1 percent of the company's outstanding shares.

In 1995, VMC started to suffer serious financial difficulties as a consequence of increased competition and losses arising from unprofitable non-sugar business ventures.

These factors resulted in a sharp decline in VMC's net income to P105 million in 1995 from P171 million in 1994.

In 1996, VMC posted a net loss of P243 million and by 1997, during the Asian financial crisis, VMC's losses ballooned to P2 billion.

As a result of its financial woes, VMC failed to settle debt payments to creditors, which triggered a decision to seek debt relief from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The SEC allowed VMC to suspend debt claims in 1997.

In 2002, VMC entered into a debt restructuring agreement with creditors, under which P1.1 billion in outstanding loans were converted into shares in the sugar miller. Banks ended up owning 70 percent of VMC.

In 2003, VMC saw a new investor in Tanduay Holdings Inc. of tycoon Lucio Tan, which infused P300 million in fresh cash to help revive the firm based on the provisions of the rehabilitation plan.

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Website: pharaoh.ktvphil.com • email: pharaoh@ktvphil.com

Ayala pursues preferred share offer, taps 7 banks

AYALA CORP. ON WEDNESDAY signed an agreement with seven banks related to its planned primary offer of P3 billion worth of preferred shares.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Ayala said it had signed an underwriting agreement with BPI Capital Corporation, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, First Metro Investment Corporation, PCI Capital Corporation, BDO Capital & Investment Corporation, China Banking Corporation, and Insular Investment and Trust Corporation.

Ayala will offer 30 million preferred B shares at P100 apiece from July 10 to July 14.

The tentative listing for the shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange is set on July 21.

Ayala has the option to issue an additional 28 million preferred shares to bring its total offer to 58 million shares worth P5.8 billion.

The proposed share issuance will raise funds for Ayala, which could be used to pay down debt or fund working capital, sources said. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Steniel readies for rehab

CARTON BOX PRODUCER Steniel Manufacturing Corp. is preparing itself for the worst after receiving last Wednesday its shareholders' approval of the plan to go to court for corporate rehabilitation should banks foreclose on its assets, company officials told Inquirer yesterday.

Steniel corporate secretary Nicanor Montoya said, however, that despite this go-ahead from shareholders, the company had yet to make a decision on filing for corporate rehabilitation.

Negotiations with creditor banks to settle Steniel's P690 million in past due debts are still ongoing.

The stock exchange yesterday suspended indefinitely the trading of Steniel shares after the company received the shareholders' approval. Steniel traded at 26 centavos on Wednesday.

A source at one of Steniel's major creditor banks said the option to go to court for rehabilitation was available to Steniel.

"If we agree with their proposal then there is no problem. If not, we just have to fight it out in the court," the source said.

STENIEL/ B3

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street
Pasay City, Philippines

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **LINK2SUPPORT, INC. (L2SI)** with office at the Eastwood City Cyberpark has filed with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) its application for **PIONEER STATUS** to be granted to its product support ad customer service call center based on project cost, which if approved, will entitle the company to six (6) years of Income Tax Holiday. Said application has been officially accepted and is under process in this office.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file with the PEZA his/her objections in writing and under oath, within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

Please direct your position papers/comments to the Enterprise Regulations Department of PEZA [Tel. Nos. 551-95-44 and 551-34-57; and telefax 551-3456].

LILIA B. DE LIMA
Director General

RP prepares for Aussie mining code

AUSTRALIAN MINING experts will be in the country on July 20 and 21 to hold a comprehensive orientation seminar on Australia's Joint Ore Reserve Committee Code.

The Philippine Stock Exchange said the JORC Code conference forms part of a joint government-private sector plan to formulate a Philippine Mineral Reporting Code (PMRC).

Australia's JORC Code, which is considered an internationally accepted standard in the mining industry, sets out the minimum requirements for public reporting of exploration results and ore reserves.

Francis Lim, PSE president and chief executive officer, said that proponents of the proposed PMRC wanted to use the JORC Code as their model in drawing up the PMRC.

Other groups supporting the seminar are the Philippine Mineral Development Institute Foundation, Chamber of Mines, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Philippine Australian Business Council and the Board of Investments (BOI).

The Australian Agency for International Development, through its Partnership on Economic Governance Reforms facility, is supporting the shift to JORC with a technical assistance.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 6, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev Bank Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	2,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32	32	31	31	296,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	51.5	50	50.5	2,860,800
China Banking Corp.	860	860	860	860	790
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export And Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	410,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	75	75	74.5	74.5	18,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35	35.5	35	35	506,500
Philippine National Bank	34	34	33.5	34	16,600
Phil. Savings Bank	39	39	38.5	38.5	6,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18.5	18.5	18.25	18.25	53,000
Security Bank Corp.	47.5	47.5	47	47.5	2,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	45.5	45.5	44	44	52,300
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31	31	31	31	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1660	1660	1640	1640	450
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	210	210	210	210	1,500
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2060	2060	2060	2060	10
Ivantage Corp.	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.26	2,140,000
INDUSTRIAL, ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	42.5	43	42.5	43	11,100
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44.5	44.5	44	44	146,500
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	21,100
Manila Electric Co. B	22.5	22.5	22.25	22.5	146,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.5	1,829,000
Petron Corp.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	1,256,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.97	0.94	0.94	780,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	24,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.6	132,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	20,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32.5	32.5	32	32	355,200
Pancake House Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	16,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.8	3.1	2.8	3.1	5,339,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65.5	65	65.5	90,900
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71	71	71	110,900
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.5	235,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	270,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.52	1.54	1.5	1.5	3,681,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.1	1.46	1.1	1.2	156,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	20,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	65,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.095	0.0875	0.0925	52,200,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	385	390	382.5	385	307,940
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	458,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.76	1.8	1.76	1.8	776,000
APC Group Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	80,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	2,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	370,000
Aln Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	10,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.32	1.32	86,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	30,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	21,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.06	7,123,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	1,014,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	38,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6	6	6	6	762,000
Medco Holdings	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	70,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	530,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	40,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.54	0.57	0.54	0.57	2,910,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	1,050,000
SM Investments Corp.	214	215	213	214	37,690
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	2,400,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	600,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12	12.25	11.75	12	10,046,400
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.08	6,349,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	640,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.56	11,710,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	10,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.28	1.28	1,583,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	10,938,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	3,910,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	216,500
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	500,000
SM Development Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	5,236,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	50,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	2,100,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16	16.25	16	16.25	450,900
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	164,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	1,582,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	960	960	945	945	12,170
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.5	3.55	3.45	3.55	420,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1965	1965	1930	1935	231,210
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Ionics Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.04	2.06	153,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.049	0.049	10,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	50,000
Philweb Corp.	0.033	0.034	0.032	0.033	86,800,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	22,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	166,400
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	1,475,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.22	0.25	700,000
Waterfront Phils Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	280,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.05	23,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	60,000
Paxys Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	1,485,800
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	10,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.2	8.2	7.9	7.9	693,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	2,420,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	550,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	49,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	70,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	449,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.35	4.35	4.3	4.3	2,344,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.35	6,842,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	27.5	28	6,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	840,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.54	0.57	0.54	0.57	2,230,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	.2700	0.27	0.26	0.26	150,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	100,400,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	59,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.26	1.3	1.24	1.3	842,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.28	1.32	1.28	1.32	500,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.25	17.25	518,800
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT REC					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	16.25	16.75	16.25	16.75	266,000

CURRENCIES

July 6, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.785608	1.000000	52.7420
Japan	Yen	0.006789	0.008642	0.4558
United Kingdom	Pound	1.441904	1.835400	96.8027
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101092	0.128680	6.7868
Switzerland	Franc	0.637720	0.811754	42.8135
Canada	Dollar	0.707118	0.900090	47.4725
Singapore	Dollar	0.494809	0.629842	33.2191
Australia	Dollar	0.582147	0.741015	39.0826
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.083951	2.652661	139.9066
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209484	0.266652	14.0638
Brunei	Dollar	0.493256	0.627865	33.1149
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.020573	0.026188	1.3812
UAE	Dirham	0.213893	0.272264	14.3597
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.272900	67.1353
Argentina	Peso	0.254654	0.324149	17.0963
Brazil	Real	0.358316	0.456100	24.0556
Denmark	Kroner	0.134067	0.170654	9.0006
India	Rupee	0.017108	0.021777	1.1486
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215323	0.274085	14.4558
Mexico	New Peso	0.070040	0.089154	4.7022
New Zealand	Dollar	0.474573	0.604084	31.8606
Norway	Kroner	0.126024	0.160416	8.4607
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013035	0.016592	0.8751
South Africa	Rand	0.109067	0.138831	7.3222
Korea	Won	0.000830	0.001056	0.0557
Sweden	Kroner	0.108962	0.138698	7.3152
Syria	Pound	0.015134	0.019264	1.0160
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024265	0.030912	1.6304
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000366	0.000466	0.0246

Shares decline 1.52%

From page B1

The broader all-shares index fell 16.86 points to 1,389.96, with all sub-indices finishing in negative territory.

Losers beat gainers 53 to 19, with 56 stocks closing flat. Volume traded totaled 1.01 billion shares worth P1.2 billion ($22.70 million).

The peso traded at 52.858 to the dollar.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone was the most actively traded stock, closing down P35 to P1,935.

Globe Telecom also succumbed to profit-taking, sliding P25 to P945.

Bank of the Philippine Islands gave up P1.50 to close at P50.50, while affiliate Ayala Land retreated 25 centavos to P12. *AFP*

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Del Monte stirrings

DESPITE THE RECENT TENDER OFFER where the Philippine principals of Del Monte Pacific acquired 84.5 percent of the Singapore-listed company, Del Monte Pacific now wants to soak up more shares from the remaining shareholders.

The proposal is to be taken up during a special stockholders' meeting on July 26 called by the new Del Monte Pacific board, chaired by San Miguel president Ramon Ang.

According to the Del Monte 2005 annual report, up to about 12 percent of the 15-percent block still held by minority shareholders are in the names of financial and institutional shareholders.

In addition, Ang and Del Monte Pacific CEO Joselito Campos Jr. want Del Monte Pacific to integrate its considerable media and packaging budgets with those of San Miguel's and UFC/Datu Puti's—the latter two companies controlled by Campos—to attain economies of scale.

The consolidation would enable the three food, beverage and condiment companies to combine their advertising placement budgets to arguably obtain better agency rates.

For 2005, San Miguel alone spent more than P7 billion in advertising and promotional expenses.

And for the same year, San Miguel Packaging Products reported revenues of more than P20.7 billion.

Mapua joins exodus

THE MAPUA Institute of Technology has joined the industry move to establish satellite campuses in Laguna and Cavite.

According to the grapevine, the Yuchengco-controlled school has acquired the shuttered Uniwide store by the Sta. Elena exit of the South Luzon Expressway and is now rushing to fix the six-hectare property in time for the 2007 school year.

Pasay Road trap

MOTORISTS taking Pasay Road from Don Bosco to go to Greenbelt and Legaspi Village this weekend, watch out for the traffic trap.

Using antiquated traffic lights as bait, Bel Air traffic "police" flag down and ticket motorists who turn left even on green to either Amorsolo or Paseo de Roxas.

The supposed violation is that the small arrow light should also be green before motorists could make a left.

The catch is, the green left-turn arrow does not turn red to signal stop but merely switches off even when the main through-light is still green, thus lulling unsuspecting motorists to still make a left especially when the oncoming lane is clear.

Ironically, the same policemen allow the forbidden left turn during weekday rush hours when traffic is bumber-to-bumper, thus setting up the same motorists for the weekend kill.

Money-go-round

- CONSTRUCTION magnate Felipe "Philip" F. Cruz Jr., who is being implicated in the Feb. 24 coup attempt or "prayer vigil" (as the Hyatt 10 would put it), is doing a number of projects in Ilocos Sur in partnership with Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.
- TO those who intend to spend Christmas with their family in the United States, BPI Mastercard is offering to both old and new cardmembers buy-one, take-one economy class passage on Northwest.

Heard through the grapevine

IN addition to stockbroker Vivian Yuchengco and Land Bank president Reynaldo David, Mike Arroyo has a new weekday golf buddy in The Country Club who goes by the pseudonym of "Karen Santos."

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Steniel . . .

From page B2

Steniel president Genesis Golingan said going to court was the company's "last option" as it was also the banks' last option to foreclose on the firm's assets after declaring Steniel in default on its debts last month.

He also said that management believed that it could turnaround Steniel's operations in the next ten years.

Golingan led certain officers of Steniel in buying out the 100-percent stake of Steniel (Belgium) Holdings NV in Steniel (Netherlands) Holdings BV.

Since Steniel Netherlands owns 82.3 percent of Steniel, the sale has in effect, placed the ownership of the publicly-listed firm into the hands of the local management.

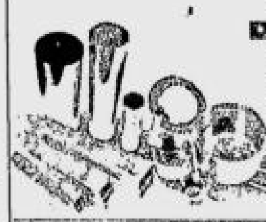
Steniel Belgium is the holding company owned by Europe and Asia- investment advisory firm CVC Capital Partners Asia Pacific LP and Asia Investors LLC.

Steniel is currently seeking creditors' approval of the sale of idle assets worth about P300 million.

PRULINK — **PRU LIFE U.K.**

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week July 4, 2006	Last Week June 27, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.41227	1.39517
Managed Fund - Peso	1.55048	1.50930
Growth Fund - Peso	1.22311	1.14395
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2251	1.2104

* Note. These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission



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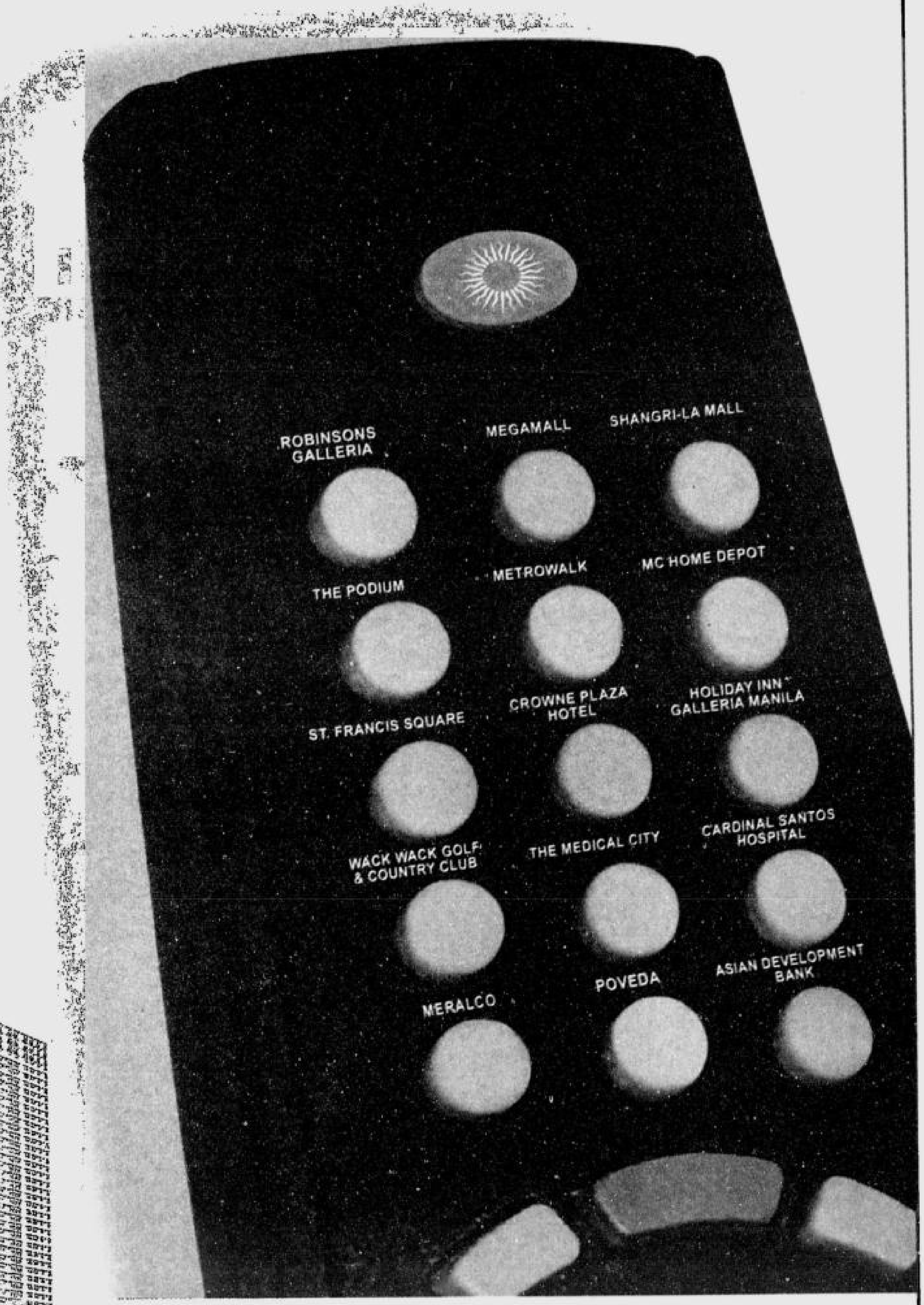

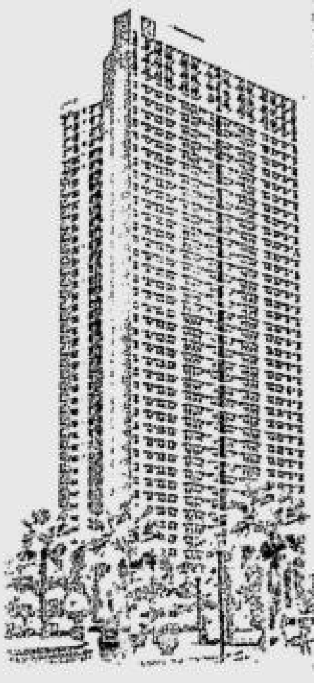

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Cebu Pacific posts market share of 41%

CEBU PACIFIC AIR INC. YESTERDAY SAID IT had posted a 41-percent share in the domestic air travel market last month, snatching a significant slice of the pie from rival Philippine Airlines.

In a press statement, Cebu Pacific said this was so far its highest market share in its 10-year history.

The airline's market share for June 2005 was only 31 percent, it said.

A source familiar with the airline's operations said the increase in market share it reported in June came at the expense of Philippine Airlines, which is the country's largest airline.

"We were able to get passengers from them," the source said, noting that Cebu Pacific's aggressive pricing strategy worked in luring flyers away from the more established carrier.

The company said that June has historically been a "lean travel month."

Despite this, however, Cebu Pacific reported a load factor of slightly higher than 79 percent for this period, carrying 65 percent more domestic passengers in June 2006 than in June 2005.

"The steady growth in market share and load factor is attributed to the aggressive pricing strategy adopted by the airline," the company said in its statement. *Daxim L. Lucas*

JFC pursuing expansion plans

JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP., UNFAZED BY THE expected slowdown in sales growth this year, will continue its overseas aggressive expansion plans, particularly in China, the United States and India, company officials said.

Jollibee chair Tony Tan Caktiong told reporters the fast food giant would go ahead with building a new Jollibee branch in Guangzhou province, its first store in China this year, and a Red Ribbon bakeshop in New Jersey in the United States.

Jollibee chief finance officer Ysmael Baysa said Jollibee was spending about $400,000 to put up a store.

The company also plans to open 20 Yonghe King stores in China this year.

Jollibee is spending about P1.5 billion for capital expenditures this year, which will include putting up 100 to 120 stores both locally and abroad.

In India, Jollibee is planning to acquire a fast food chain.

Jollibee is backed up by P1 billion in cash from operations, a total of P17 billion in assets and zero debt.

For any acquisition, it has an existing credit line of P8.5 billion.

Despite its strong financial condition, sales growth for the fast food giant is expected to be weaker in the second quarter compared to first quarter performance sales due lower consumer spending and higher utility costs.

System-wide sales—or sales from both company-owned and franchised stores—rose 15.2 percent to P10.4 billion in the first quarter. Yonghe King in China accounted for the highest sales growth (12 percent) followed by Delifrance (9.9 percent) and Chowking (8.5 percent). *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Third bidding for Mimosa planned

CDC board seen to decide in next week's meeting

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORP. IS CONSIDERING holding a third round of bidding for the 215-hectare Mimosa Leisure Estate following the revocation of the award of contract to a South Korean group, the highest bidder in the auction for the property held in May.

Antonio R. Ng, president and chief executive of CDC, said in a telephone interview that the agency had sent the notice to NTM Jin Hung Joint Venture Corp. last July 5.

Ng said the move meant the second round of bidding held last May had failed because the winning bidder failed to comply with the bidding terms of reference (TOR). The first round held in 2003 failed to attract bidders.

"The company was given 10 days to start the implementation of the TOR from the day it was awarded the contract on June 5," he explained. "We have given it more time than that, but we have to make a decision after a month (with NTM Jin Hung having done nothing)."

Ng said CDC officials were disappointed with the outcome of the latest attempt to privatize Mimosa Leisure Estate considering that NTM Jin Hung's offer promised the government initial revenue of P650 million on top of a yearly rental of $1.2 million.

NTM Jin Hung also promised to pour in additional investments of P1.42 billion for the improvement of the property's villas, casinos, golf course and country club, promenade and hotel.

Ng said the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel had advised the CDC to start implementing the lease agreement and to revoke the contract following NTM Jin Hung's failure to meet the terms of the bidding.

"We did that to be consistent with the entire bidding process and the TOR," he said. "If we did not accept the offer of NTM Jin Hung's only competitor during the bidding because it was submitted a few minutes late, we should exercise the same strictness here."

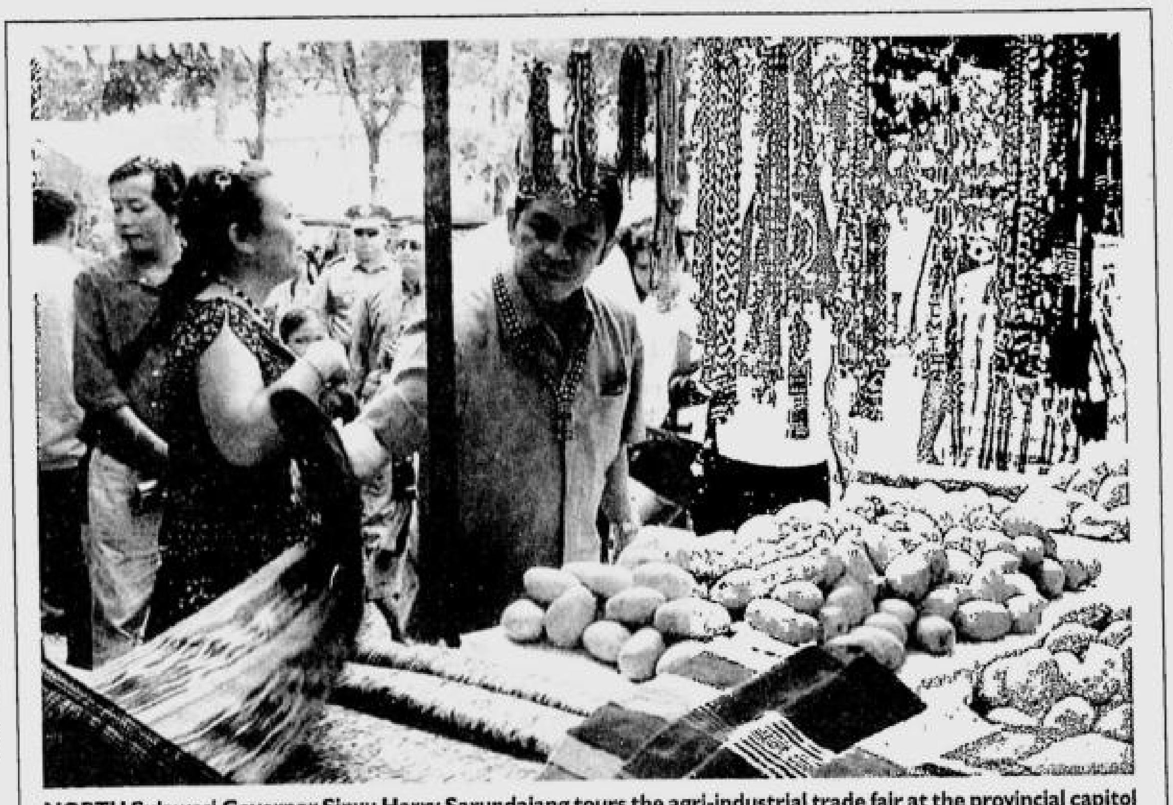
Ng said there was nothing that would stop the company from appealing CDC's decision but that "it appears there is no legal ground" for such.

Further, the official said CDC had two options under the law—to either go into a third round of public bidding or to enter into direct negotiations with at least three parties.

"What we need to do now is a post-mortem, to see what lessons we can learn from these recent developments," Ng said.

He said the CDC board would discuss its options and decide on what to do next in its meeting next week.

CDC took over the management of Mimosa in 1999 from operator Mondragon Leisure and Resort Corp. after it failed to pay the lease rentals amounting to P464 million.



NORTH Sulawesi Governor Sinyu Harry Sarundajang tours the agri-industrial trade fair at the provincial capitol grounds in Barangay Matti, Digos City during his visit to Gov. Benjamin P. Bautista. The Indonesian governor pledges product trading business with the province.

ELDIE S. AGUIRRE/CONTRIBUTOR

Strengthening social provisions of mining regulations proposed

THE COUNTRY'S REGULATORY framework for the mining industry is comprehensive and stringent enough to promote sustainable development, but its implementation is weak, according to a university-based think tank.

Colin L. Hubo of the University of Asia and the Pacific's Center for Social Responsibility said achieving and sustaining a development agenda in the mining sector rested in "strict adherence, vigilance and effective implementation of mining laws, which at present is rather weak."

The findings form part of a study called "Rapid assessment of the sustainability agenda in the mining industry" conducted by CSR, UAP's think tank on sustainable development and business sustainability.

Hubo said the study showed mining firms were facing growing risks because of increasing public awareness about sustainability-related issues.

The study covered the following 12 factors of sustainability: Environmental accounting, impact assessments, audits, process improvements and products and services; clean production methods; freedom of information; local economic growth; stakeholder engagement; human resource management; governance and management; and community development.

Hubo said that while the growth of the areas that host mining projects was not yet apparent, all the other factors were adequately provided for through laws, executive orders, plans and policies.

He said "there appears to be a need for structured approach in understanding complex social justice issues in mining, especially those on ethnicity, class, gender and corruption.

"Policies related to mine closures, decommissioning or rehabilitation are biased toward environmental, safety and health issues," Hubo said.

The study, he said, recommended the strengthening of the social provisions of the regulatory framework on mining and the development of a framework on consultations with stakeholders, resolution of grievances, and development activities in closed mining sites.

"There must be a rethinking of government strategies to promote mining through new ideas, new faces and young blood," Hubo said.

"Also, reforms in mining agencies must be instituted to promote transparency and accountability," he said.

At the same time, officials of Canadian-affiliated TVI Resources Development Inc. and Australia's Indophil Resources (Philippines) Inc. said their companies were taking steps toward responsible mining mainly through partnerships with government agencies, local communities and even nongovernment organizations.

However, the officials said the entire industry should strive harder to establish better relations with stakeholders considering that mining firms were not well-liked especially after the Lafayette incident.

The entire industry came under fire after Australian firm Lafayette Philippines Inc.'s project in Rapu-Rapu Island off Albay caused mine tailing contamination and allegedly fish kills. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Farming communities and retirement

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

IT WAS AN UNUSUAL SIGHT. LAST JULY 3, Leopoldo Flores, an Alyansa Agrikultura farmer leader from Baruangga, Aklan, addressed the mostly Metro Manila-based elite at the Makati Shangri-La Ballroom. More than 600 people had come to participate in the first Retirement Industry and Investment Summit.

Flores said the retirement opportunity was not just for big developers, but also for farmers and small communities.

Retirement has always been considered an investment and livelihood opportunity. But it is only now that its huge potential is being recognized.

Last year, the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) performed well, considering the little support it received. PRA increased retiree registration by as much as 50 percent, as shown below:

PRA RETIREES

AGE	2004	2005
35-49	191	287
50-65	179	257
Above 65	25	37
Total	395	581

Almost half of those registered are in the 35-49 age category. They seem more like business people than retirees, who have taken advantage of the PRA registration to be able to engage in business here. We also note that for the "above 65" age category, there are only 37 retirees.

Noel Gonzales, the retirement summit chair, said we can do better than this. Malaysia and Thailand each registered much more than 10,000 retirees last year. He said, "A main reason for our poor performance is that we have no retirement industry to speak of."

As a former Cabinet secretary told me last year, "Retirement cannot succeed in the Philippines because there is no one in charge. Different government agencies work on retirement, but there seems to be little coordination. What we need is a retirement czar, similar to former Energy Czar Delfin Lazaro, who will direct all government retirement-related efforts."

New environment

Last May 30, President Macapagal-Arroyo gave us that retirement czar in PRA chair Edgar Aglipay. She also declared retirement as a presidential flagship project.

The private sector similarly responded. The housing, healthcare, lifestyle services and other retirement-related sectors, such as tourism, financial and human resource development groups, organized formally into Philippine Retirement Inc. (PRI). The PRI-PRA partnership intends to give the retirement industry the united focus and support it needs to succeed.

Farmer intervention

It is in this context of a united retirement industry that Flores gave his remarks to the people that jam-packed the ballroom that day. He said small people like him should be an integral part of the retirement industry. He could do this by housing retirees in homes in their communities.

Research has shown that more than 80 percent of retirees in developed countries do not live in huge retirement enclaves. Instead, they stay in smaller independent units that have effective connectivity with healthcare and lifestyle services.

Flores said that in his Buruangga, Aklan community, they can provide the same retirement package at much less cost. This would be specially attractive to farmer retirees because they would be living in similar agricultural communities. In addition, they would have the opportunity of sharing their technology with the Filipino farmers and thus lead more fulfilling lives.

However, Flores said his community needed help from PRI-PRA on the identification of the global standards for these homes as well as the training necessary to meet those standards.

Community approach

For a rural community (or even urban communities like BF Homes), its leaders can identify the type of retiree they want to further develop their community. For example, they can choose agriculturists, agriculture engineers, entrepreneurs, teachers in specific disciplines and healthcare professionals in needed areas as their priority retirees.

Incentive arrangements can be made for them, such as lower registration fees.

The community leaders can provide specific opportunities for foreign retirees to share their technology, knowledge and wisdom with the Filipino communities. This could even make the retirees' golden years even more fulfilling and productive than their earlier years.

In addition to the mutual sharing between the foreign retirees and the Filipino community, there are significant financial benefits.

Imagine a community targeting a dozen houses with three to five retirees each. Each retiree will spend a minimum of $1,000 or P50,000 a month. Multiply this by twelve months, and you have P600,000 per retiree. Multiply this by 50 retirees, and you have P30 million a year for that community.

Conclusion

As Flores said, retirement is not just for the big developers. It is also for other sectors of society, such as farmers and small communities. There can even be a contest among municipal mayors for the best retirement packages they can formulate. The objective is to attract the most desirable retirees who will help their communities with needed skills and create the most jobs.

The PRI-PRA partnership wishes to extend its help down to the interested small communities throughout the nation. This can be done through various means, such as identifying and enforcing global standards, training and human resource development and other support mechanisms.

Starting August, the PRI-PRA partnership will hold orientation and feedback sessions at 9 a.m. every Monday in Makati for Luzon, Cebu for the Visayas and Davao for Mindanao. For more information, call Daisy Barawidan at 848 1412 to 16 or 0915 519 4997.

(The author is Agriwatch chair. For inquiries, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

BSP probes ...

From page B1

In an earlier interview, Espenilla did not deny suspicions that prices were being manipulated, but he refused to make additional comments.

Other banking sources explained that the alleged price-fixing was made possible by a memorandum that circulated among traders, urging them to quote a specific price at a specific time.

"I think the BSP is still trying to find proof of manipulation, and it will find proof," one bank treasurer said.

Bankers Association of the Philippines executive director Leonilo Coronel said there was no industry-wide rigging of local bond prices, and that it's best to give the BSP time to complete its probe on the matter.

"If it involves only a few people, let the weight of the law fall on them," Coronel said.

As the BAP did not have access to specific bank records, he said the association was in no position to conduct its own investigation. But Coronel said that it would be willing to help implement stiffer reforms.

Coronel admitted as much that the BAP did not exercise enough oversight on the matter.

As a solution, he suggested the formula for MART1 should be enhanced or banks should be encouraged to course trades through the fledgling fixed income exchange Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX) where prices were more transparent.

"I think you'll see the volume of trade in PDEX increasing," Coronel said. "That's the best solution to all this."

Terrorist funds ...

From page B1

reporting that is being followed, Aquino said.

"Philippine casinos which are regulated by Pagcor are submitting reports through Pagcor," Aquino explained. "While not among the covered institutions under the Anti-Money Laundering law, [Pagcor] has volunteered to submit suspicious transaction reports regardless of the amount involved."

Also, the Securities and Exchange Commission has tightened its regulations on non-profit organizations (NPOs), including private foundations, in line with concerns on money laundering and terrorist financing, he added.

The SEC recently issued a circular governing the operations of NPOs, foundations, and charities, Aquino said.

"They are now required to disclose their transactions—the recipients of the funds that they receive from abroad, the amount, and the source of funds from abroad and from within," he said.

The APG meetings were hosted by the Philippines for the first time since 1999 and attended by 250 participants including experts, leaders and policy-makers representing 32 member jurisdictions and 10 international organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. Frank Swedlove, president of the Financial Action Task Force, also attended the meetings.

This year, three countries—Myanmar, Afghanistan and Canada—joined the APG for the first time.

During the Manila meetings, whose plenary sessions closed yesterday, the APG members committed to undergo compliance assessments on global anti money laundering and anti-terrorist financing standards. The members also agreed to continue the mandate of the APG until December 2012. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Shell to boost gas production

By Abigail L. Ho

SHELL PHILIPPINES EXPLORATION BV (Spex) has committed to increase gas production at the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project to power another 300-500 megawatts of new power plants in Luzon.

Following recent talks with Spex officials, including those from foreign principal Royal Dutch Shell Plc, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said there was a need to boost gas supply from Malampaya to fuel additional capacity "in time for the critical period in Luzon", which he placed at 2010 or 2011.

"Our expectation is that it forms part of their responsibilities under the service contract," Lotilla said in a briefing.

"The investments to be made would have to be determined at the technical level, but discussions and exchanges are now taking place on the natural gas requirements," he added

Spex external affairs manager Facundo Roco confirmed that the company had agreed to boost gas production from Malampaya since Service Contract 38 stated that gas extracted from the gas find should be enough to support a capacity of 3,000 MW.

Malampaya currently supplies gas to three power plants with a total capacity of 2,700 MW: the 1,200-MW Ilijan, 1,000-MW Sta. Rita and 500-MW San Lorenzo plants, all in Batangas.

In a separate interview, Shell companies in the Philippines country chair Edgar Chua said Spex would still have to assess the situation before coming up with an investment plan for the planned increase in gas production.

"Everything depends on the timing. It's something we are looking at, but are yet to finalize. We'll get back to the (Department of Energy) soon since this forms part of our program," he said.

He related that there were some issues that had to be reviewed, including the fact that, for a long time, the buyers were drawing below minimum take-or-pay levels due to transmission constraints.

"There are still issues on the transmission side. We can only come up with a good number once the way forward is clear," he said.

Iran firm taps PNOC geothermal company

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL Co. Energy Development Corp. has been taken on as a consultant by a company in Iran that will develop a 55-megawatt geothermal facility near Mt. Sabalan, Iran.

According to the state firm, the project with Iran's New Energy Development Organization would start in October or November, depending on the results of the rebidding of the contract to be the project contractor.

The project could have started as early as this month, but unresolved issues prompted the need to find another contractor for the job, PNOC-EDC said.

The state firm's consultancy contract with the Iranian company will run for two years.

In an earlier interview, PNOC-EDC vice president for technical services Manuel Ogena said the state firm, with its team of experts, was well positioned to expand its presence in the overseas drilling market.

"We have a good team of experts here, so we continue to offer our drilling services to clients in different parts of the world," he said.

PNOC-EDC is currently negotiating for possible drilling contracts in Australia and Argentina.

The Philippines is the world's second largest producer of geothermal energy, with an installed capacity of 1,904 MW.

PNOC-EDC accounts for 1,148 MW, or 60.3 percent, of that total installed capacity.

The company's geothermal energy production for the past 30 years helped the country reduce its crude oil use by 123.5 million barrels, resulting in foreign exchange savings of around $3.1 billion.

Since 1983, PNOC-EDC has produced close to 75,000 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of steam and electricity.

In 2005 alone, the company's gross steam and electricity generation reached 7,227 GWh, 62.6 percent of which came from the Leyte Geothermal Production Field.

Because of its expertise and years of experience, the company has expanded its reach overseas.

PNOC-EDC last year clinched four new drilling contracts from the Lihir Management Co. in Papua New Guinea.

"PNOC-EDC's drilling services continue to be a profitable venture for the company," PNOC-EDC president and chief executive Paul Aquino had said.

"Our annual revenue comparison shows an average 10-percent yearly increase in our drilling income."

PNOC-EDC started exporting drilling services in 1997 by taking on an oil and gas drilling venture in Indonesia.

In 2003, the Bangladesh Petroleum and Exploration Co. contracted PNOC-EDC for drilling rig rehabilitation works.

Abigail L. Ho

Costa Rica, Honduras to help RP export bananas

By Christine A. Gaylican

COSTA RICA AND HONDURAS have committed to help the Philippines gain access to the $70-million banana market of Australia, the Department of Agriculture said yesterday.

The two Latin American countries, which are large-scale exporters of fresh bananas, have agreed to help the Philippine government win a deal to export its fruits to Australia, which has been pending for 10 years.

"These countries have prevailed and they are willing to help us," Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban said yesterday in a briefing.

The DA has likewise consulted the Advocacy Center on WTO Law (ACWL) to determine the best approach in negotiating with Australia before the WTO, Agriculture Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano said in the same briefing.

ACWL is a trust fund put up by developed countries to help developing countries bring their complaints of unfair trade before the WTO, Serrano explained.

Banana industry players are backing the DA in its bid to bring the case involving unfair trade practices before the WTO.

Serrano said the Philippine banana industry has committed to shoulder a "significant portion" of the estimated $100,000 that it will take for the government to pursue the case before the WTO.

It has been almost four years since Australia blocked the entry of Philippine banana due to reports of a banana disease that could destroy Australia's banana industry.

This has since been refuted by both plant experts of the DA's Bureau of Plant Industry and Philippine banana exporting companies, but the Australian Parliament has not responded to the claims allegedly due to pressures from its Australia Banana Growers Council.

Local banana exporters led by the Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association said the Philippines was already the world's second largest producer and exporter of Cavendish bananas.

The country even ships to Japan, which also has rigid sanitary and phytosanitary rules.

The industry exported $350 million worth of fresh bananas in 2005.

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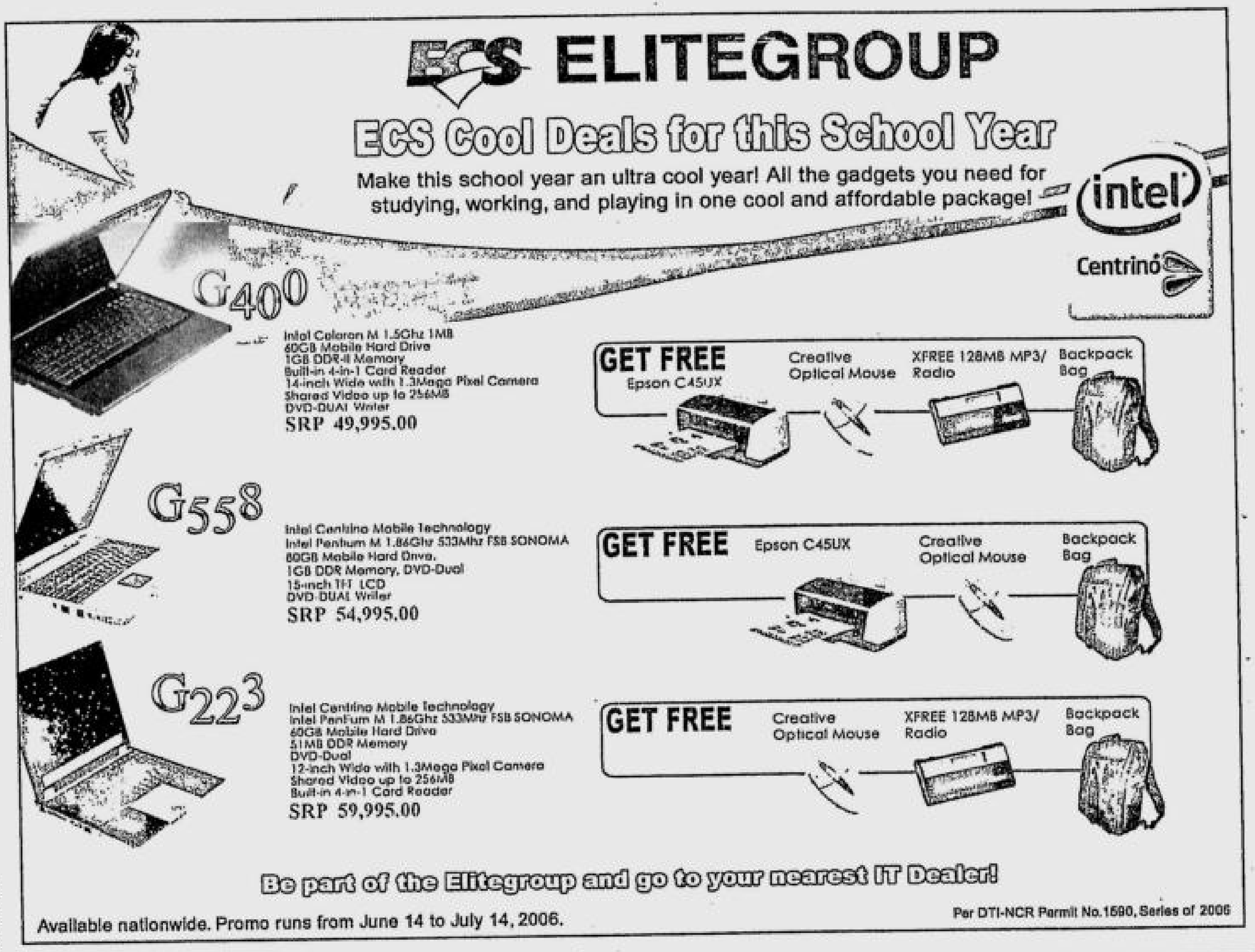
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2	Unit 206-C, Bonaventure Garden Homes, S. Osmeña St., Makati City	Condominium	61.3		2,158,200.00	Vacant
3	Lot 19 Blk 34, Pio Pedrosa St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City	Lot Only		1145	4,395,600.00	With Occupants
4	Lot 24 Blk 34, Pio Pedrosa St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City	Lot Only		815	3,382,500.00	With Occupants
5	Lot 36 Blk 34, A. Ozaeta St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City	Lot Only		377	2,006,400.00	With Occupants
6	Lot 42 Blk 34, G. Dee Seklat St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City	Lot Only		573	3,971,000.00	Vacant
7	Lot 6 Blk 52, BF Carnival St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City	Lot Only		41	283,800.00	With Occupants
8	Lot 1 Blk 1, Donatello St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City	Lot Only		265	1,778,700.00	Vacant
9	B5 L1, St. Joseph Homes, Orani, Bataan	House & Lot	63	539	1,304,600.00	With Occupants
10	B15 L8&L9, St. Joseph Homes, Orani, Bataan	House & Lot	145	480	1,260,600.00	With Occupants
11	B7 L18&20, Sta. Monica Homes, Mariveles, Bataan	House & Lot	33	100	403,700.00	With Occupants
12	B7 L18, Sta. Monica Homes, Mariveles, Bataan	House & Lot	33	100	314,600.00	With Occupants

FOR INTERESTED PARTIES, PLEASE CALL HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION AT 896-04-25, 897-31-49 OR VISIT OUR HEAD OFFICE AT JADE BLDG., NO. 335 GIL PUYAT AVENUE, MAKATI CITY.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS**
OIC-VICE PRESIDENT
PROJECT MANAGEMENT/ACQUIRED
ASSETS DISPOSITION GROUP

(PDI–July 7, 2006)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Security Printing of the following Negotiable Instruments:**

Security Check	Quantity	Approved Budget* Source of Fund: DBP Fund	Cost of Bid Documents
Commercial Check	27,000 booklets	P1,944,000.00	P 500.00
Personal Check	22,000 booklets	P 792,000.00	P 500.00
Manager's Check	2,500 booklets	P 245,000.00	P 500.00
Modified Disbursement Scheme (MDS)	18,000 booklets	P1,125,000.00	P 500.00
PVAO Pension Check (Continuous Form)	450,000 pieces	P 517,500.00	P 500.00
DECS Checks (Continuous Form)	1,608,322 pieces	P 1,929,986.40	P 500.00

***Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening**

Mode of Delivery/Payment: Staggered Delivery/Progressive Billing
Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Pre-Bidding Conference	July 25, 2006 (Tuesday) at 10:00 a.m.	6th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of August 8, 2006 (Tuesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	August 8, 2006 (Tuesday) at 10:30 a.m.	6th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines and must have been authorized to engage in the **Security Checks Printing business for at least three (3) years. Security Check Printer should present sample check items with MICR encoding duly tested and certified to have passed the Philippine Clearing House Corporation (PCHC) MICR reader sorter.** Only Bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested parties may download these forms at www.devbankphil.com.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Prospective bidders may secure the bid documents and Eligibility Requirement Forms from the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City, upon payment of a **non-refundable fee depending on the total amount of the approved budget of the contract of a particular item/s the prospective bidder intends to bid. Only those who purchased the bid documents will be allowed to attend the pre-bidding conference on July 25, 2006.**

The Bank reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 8125702/8189511 loc. 2610.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–July 7 & 14, 2006)

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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory
on the Tenth Death Anniversary of

Atty. Francisco (Tito) B. Santiago

10 October 1940 – 8 July 1996
Former Judicial and Bar Council Member
U.P. Law '62

The Holy Sacrifice of the mass shall be offered Saturday, July 8 at the following churches:

Christ the King Parish Church, Green Meadows 6:00 p.m.
Nuestra Sra. De Guia Church, Ermita, Manila 12:15 n.n.
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan 6:15 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City 6:00 p.m.
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, San Marcelino, Ermita, Manila 5:00 p.m.
Mary the Queen Parish Madison, San Juan 6:00 p.m.
Holy Family Parish Church, Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig City 6:00 a.m.
St. Francis Church, Mandaluyong City 6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Remedies Parish, Malate, Manila 6:00 p.m.
Mother of Good Counsel Parish, Chrysanthemum Village, San Pedro, Laguna 6:00 a.m.
Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Mandaluyong City 6:00 p.m.
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish, BF Parañaque 6:45 a.m.

A special Mass shall be offered on
Saturday, July 8, 2006 4:00 p.m.
Himlayan Pilipino Chapel, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

Tito's family wishes to thank all who keep him in their memory.

In Loving Memory
on the 10th Death Anniversary of

Our Beloved

ROMEO DAVID PASCUAL

January 02, 1939 – July 07, 1996

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches:

Carmel of the Divine Infant Jesus of Prayers, Angeles City	6:00 a.m.
Sacred Heart Chapel, Angeles City	6:00 a.m.
St. Martin Parish, Villamor Airbase, Pasay City	6:00 a.m.
Don Bosco Chapel, Tarlac City	6:30 a.m.
San Sebastian Cathedral, Tarlac City	7:00 a.m.
Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church, Angeles City	7:00 a.m.
Holy Rosary Parish, Angeles City	8:30 a.m.
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Chapel, Cardinal Santos Medical Center, Greenhills, San Juan	5:15 p.m.
Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Manaoag Parish, Manaoag, Pangasinan	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Redemptorist, Pasay City	6:00 p.m.
Shrine of The Sacred Heart of Jesus, Dao St., Makati	6:00 p.m.
St. Jude Parish, San Miguel, Manila	6:00 p.m.
Sta. Teresita Parish, West Rembo, Makati City	6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish, Gagalangin, Manila	6:00 p.m.
Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan	6:15 p.m.

Family, Relatives, Friends and Pious Readers are requested to remember Romy in their prayers.

> **"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."**—John 3:16

DOMINADOR "SPARKY" P. OLIVA

Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 5, 2006 at the age of 85.

His loving wife: **Clemencia "Clemen"**; children: **Tony, Bobbit, Rene, Dan, Cynthia & Monette;** sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Garden of Memories Chapel, Bagong Calzada, Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 9, 2006 at the Garden of Memories Memorial Park, Pateros, Metro Manila after the 2:00 p.m. funeral Mass.

Death Notice

Violeta Maldia-Narvaez

joined her Creator on July 2, 2006 at the age of 69.

Her body lies in state at Funeraria Nacional, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on July 8, 2006, 9 A.M. at Himlayang Pilipino.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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TARLAC II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac

INVITATION TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the supply and delivery of six (6) months material requirements stated below are hereby invited to pre-qualify with Tarlac II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO II). Only pre-qualified applicants shall be invited to participate in the bidding.

PACKAGE 1.

1.	Wire, guy, steel, 3/8", 7 strands, Galv. Steel	3,620 pcs.
2.	Wire, POLYACSR#2, AWG, Code Name: Pignut	16,800 meters
3.	Wire, ACSR #2, Code Name: Sparrow	22,000 meters
4.	Wire, ACSR #2/0, Code Name: Quail	10,000 meters
5.	Wire, ACSR#336.4, AWG, Code Name: Merlin	250 meters
6.	Wire #1/0 AWG, tw, cu, stranded	150 meters
7.	Wire, #8 AWG, tw, cu, solid	250 meters
8.	Wire, #2/0 AWG, tw, cu, stranded	250 meters
9.	Conductor, THHN, Copper, Stranded, 8.0 mm sqd.	10,000 meters
10.	Same as item No. 9 except 14.0 mm sqd., Black	5,000 meters
11.	Same as item No. 9 except 2.0 mm sqd., Black	900 meters
12.	Conductor, Duplex, #6 AWG	55,000 meters

PACKAGE 2.

1.	Transformer, Distribution, 1-Ph, 10 KVA,	3 units
2.	Same as Description of No. 1 except 15 KVA	9 units
3.	Same as Description of No. 1 except 25 KVA	12 units
4.	Same as Description of No. 1 except 37.5 KVA	6 units
5.	Same as Description of No. 1 except 50 KVA	3 units

PACKAGE 3.

1.	Socket Base, 1 "Hubs, C1 - 100, 4 Jaws, 2 Wire Converted	1,900 pcs
2.	Socket Base, 1 - Ph, C1 - 200, 4 Jaws, Heavy Duty, Rectangular	250 pcs
3.	Meter KWH, 1 - Ph, 3 W, Class 200, Fm - 2S, 60 Hz, 170s	2,500 units
4.	Meter, Electronic, 1 - Ph, 3 W, 240 V, C1-200, 60 Hz, Fm 2S 240V, 1 - 210 GE	200 units

PACKAGE 4.

1.	1 Pair Solid Anchor, Concrete 4"r x 4'	240 pcs.
2.	Pole, Steel, 25'00", Octagonal Type	100 pcs.
3.	Pole, Steel, 55'00", Octagonal, Class 3	20 pcs.
4.	Pole, Steel, 30'00", Octagonal type	50 pcs.
5.	Pole, Concrete, 35'00", Round Type CI-5	10 pcs.
6.	Pole, Concrete, 35'00", Round Type CI-3	10 pcs.

PACKAGE 5.

Six (6) months supplies for the following items:

a. Line Hardwares, connectors, fuse links, steel cross-arms, lightning arrester cut-outs, gnp and others.
b. Service entrance materials and drops (assorted).

Prequalification documents shall be received from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM by the Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee through its Chairman, MR. PABLITO D. MAGCALAS, at TARELCO II Main Office Building located at San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac, Philippines. Bid documents are available beginning July 13, 2006.

Submission of Prequalification Documents - July 13 - 20, 2006
Date and Time of Prebid Conference - July 20, 2006, 1:30 PM
Date and Time of Bidding shall be announced during the Prebid Conference.
Accredited suppliers previously prequalified need only to update their files with TARELCO II.

TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all applications to pre-qualify and to bid without offering any reason, and waive any defect therein. TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. Send all communications to the PBAC Secretariat at the address mentioned above or at Telephone No. (45) 923-0460 or Fax Nos (045) 923-0471 & 609-0224.

(Sgd.) PABLITO D. MAGCALAS
PBAC Chairman

(PDI--July 7 & 10, 2006)

GLOBAL EXCELLENCE RIBBON CUTTING

Global Excellence Human Resources Academy Inc. opening day on June 14, was graced by their honorable guests. Photo shown from right Director Cynthia Lazo of the Department of Tourism, Pacifico Maghacot Jr., chief of the Business Permits and Licensing Office of Quezon City and Nelson Hornilla, officer-in-charge of Employment Promotion Division of the Department of Labor and Employment were officially cut the ribbon with Priscila Y. Carabeo, president/COO of Global Excellence. Global is located at Room 306-308 TDS Bldg., No. 72 Kamias Road, Quezon City.

Brion vows to intensify efforts against illegal recruitment

EXPRESSING CONCERN about the increasing rapacity of illegal recruiters in victimizing innocent people desiring overseas employment, Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion has vowed to intensify the government campaign against illegal recruitment.

He said it should be stopped, and that the efforts against the menace should be strengthened.

Brion, in one of his first moves in office, has directed the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to expedite the review and prosecution of cases against illegal recruiters.

The new Labor Chief, a former Court of Appeals Associate Justice, said that the law imposes severe penalties for illegal recruitment.

The form of illegal recruitment that the law gives the strongest focus to is the nefarious recruitment of people for non-existent overseas employment without the required government license for legitimate recruitment.

"This is the worst form of illegal recruitment as it dupes victims into paying excessive amounts of money to the illegal recruiter," Brion said. "We will give the strongest focus against this form of illegal recruitment in order to protect the unwary and at the same time, penalize the guilty."

Brion said that when legitimate recruiters commit violations of the POEA Rules and Regulations and the provisions of the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act, such violations are treated separately and penalized, as appropriate, under the processes of the POEA.

The way to mitigate and eliminate this form is not by reducing the existing number of legitimate recruiters, but to strongly enforce and implement the law against the violations that hurt the unwary, he said.

PMAP workshop

THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION of the Philippines is sponsoring a three-day workshop on Competency Design and Development which will be held on July 11-13. Registration fee is P7,850 for PMAP member and P9,400 for Non PMAP member. It is a Foundational module designed to prepare the Learners to draft their own specific competency framework plan that will eventually be the starting point of a customised competency framework in their organisations. For reservations, please contact The Human Resource Management Development Center at telephone numbers 726-1581; 726-1588 or 726-1532; email address: mira.jakosalem@pmap.org.ph or you may visit the website: www.pmap.org.ph

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TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date . July 3, 2006
Loan No.: CALYON
Contract No.: Sp06.LTUP.Lw-0070

1. The *National Power Corporation (NPC)* has received a loan from the ***Buyer's Credit Facility arranged by CALYON through a Master Credit Arrangement*** for ***Luzon Transmission Upgrading Project 1*** and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract ***Furnishing, Delivery, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of Substation Equipment, Its Associated Control & Protection For Dasmariñas Substation Including Protection and Communication Equipment for Various Stations under Luzon Transmission Upgrading Project 1.***

   Plant and equipment to be supplied under the Contract shall have their origin from eligible source country of Calyon Buyer's Credit Facility only (United States, Austria, Belgium, England, Denmark, South Korea, Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland).

2. The *National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)* administering the implementation of the said project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the:

   Furnishing, Delivery, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of Substation Equipment, Its Associated Control & Protection For Dasmariñas Substation Including Protection and Communication Equipment for Various Stations under Luzon Transmission Upgrading Project 1.

3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the ***Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department***, *Ground Floor, Power Center, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Telephone No.: 981-2212, 981-2213, 981-4652; Telefax No.: 921-23-08.*

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting **July 7, 2006** upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Forty Thousand Pesos (PHP 40,000.00).***

5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals will be opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive will be rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance. The bidders may or may not submit a supplementary price proposal, which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public.

6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of:

   Two Hundred Fifty Thousand US Dollars (US$ 250,000.00)

   The bid security must be included in the technical proposal.

   Pre-bid Conference shall be conducted on **August 2, 2006.**

   The deadline for the submission of bids will be on **September 1, 2006** at 1:30 P.M. at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected.

7. The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

8. The price proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.

9. The total contract duration for the project is **365 calendar days.**

10. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

11. All communications shall be addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee at aforementioned addres

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - July 7, 14 & 21, 2006)

Contra hing for the Divestment
of Tra Sub-transmissi ets
nsmission Corpo
and
r Electric Coop

TRANSCO'S SUBTRANSMISSION LINES DEAL WITH DASURECO

National Transmission Corporation President and CEO Dr. Alan Ortiz (second from left) recently signed an agreement with Davao del Sur Electric Cooperative Inc. (Dasureco) President Artemio A. Tajon for the sale of Transco's subtransmission facilities in Davao del Sur. The P121-million lease-purchase deal payable in 18.75 years involves four sub-transmission lines spanning a total of 111.7 circuit kilometers. These include the Davao-Digos, Digos-Malita, Matanao-Bansalan and Matanao-Cut-in lines, all rated at 69 kilovolts. This sub-transmission asset divestment agreement is expected to improve the reliability and efficiency of electric service for the power users in Davao del Sur. Also shown are Transco VP Alexander B. Cortez (far left) and Dasureco General Manager Jesus P. de la Victoria.

The Department of Trade and Industry

Announcement

This is to inform the public of a real estate development project in China, specifically in Nanning City, Guangxi Autonomous Region, which will be opened for participation to a Philippine or Philippine-registered company.

The project is called the China-ASEAN International Business Park, and the portion open for commercial/residential development by a private Philippine or Philippine registered company measures 40,000 square meters. Nanning City will offer preferential policies and terms to the developer that will be chosen by the People's Government of Nanning City to undertake the project.

This project will be undertaken in contract between the Nanning City-selected Philippine developer and the People's Government of Nanning City. The role of DTI's limited to:

- Making public this project opportunity and inviting interested parties to apply thru DTI;
- Collating the application documents submitted and forwarding the names and details of all applicants that meet the requirements to Nanning City, for the latter's final selection and approval.

Information on this project, including the English translated invitation letter issued by the Nanning Government, is available at the Department of Trade and Industry website: www.business.gov.ph

All companies interested to participate should submit the following documents to the Foreign Trade Service Corps (FTSC) of the Department of Trade and Industry (attention: Mr. Rene Queroda, 3rd Floor, DTI International Building, 375 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Telephone No.: 897-9661, 897-9672, 897-9659) **no later than 5:00 PM, Friday, 21 July 2006:**

a. Letter of Intent to Participate
b. Corporate Profile
c. SEC Registration Certificate (certified true copy)
d. Business Information Report on the company from CIBI (2/F CIBI Information Center, 3308 Corner Zapote and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, Telephone No.: 899-0015, email: cibi-info@cibi.net.ph or D & B (Dun and Bradstreet; D & Bs contact info: Telephone No.: 892-5658, BusDev Officer, Mr. Justin Dela Paz, email: custcare@dnb.com.ph.

(PDI--July 7 & 9, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE

Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	: **Proposed 2-Classroom School Building— Package III (3rd District)**
Location	: Candugay E/S Barili; BM Pañares NHS, Barili; Mantalongon NHS, Barili; Aloguinsan NHS, Aloguinsan; Angilan NHS, Aloguinsan; Anapog NHS, Pinamungahan; Buanoy Main NHS, Balamban; Nangka NHS, Balamban; Sta. Lucia NHS, Asturias; and Tuburan NHS, Tuburan: Province of Cebu
Brief Description	: Construction of 2-Classroom Schoolbuildings
Approved Budget for the Contract	: P 6,232,439.09
Contract Duration	: 135 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass / fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Applications for Eligibility	July 7 – 13, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	July 7 – 13, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	July 13, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 18, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	July 19, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	July 20, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	August 01, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P 50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 255-6123.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications, only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Four Thousand Pesos (P 4,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality in the bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
Chairman

(PDI - July 7 & 13, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

SUPPLY OF MORE OR LESS 480,000 PIECES BRAND NEW EMPTY SACKS (MTS)

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, through its Corporate Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum of FOUR MILLION TWO HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT THOUSAND PESOS (P4,248,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the Supply of MORE OR LESS FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND (480,000) PCs Brand New Empty Sacks (MTS).

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** now invites Bids from eligible empty sack manufacturers/supplier for the Supply of more or less 480,000 PCs Brand New Empty Sacks (MTS) for Iron Fortified Rice (IFR). Delivery of the Goods will start Twenty-One (21) calendar days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed and to be completed within Thirty (30) calendar days from the first delivery.

Re-Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect/purchase the Bidding Documents at the address given below, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Six Thousand Pesos (P6,000.00)* in cash

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	DATE/TIME
Issuance of Bids & Eligibility Documents	June 30 - July 07, 2006
Pre-Bidding Conference (NFA Training Center, 3rd Floor, Reg'l Office)	July 10, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m
Submission Eligibility Documents & Opening of Bids (NFA Training Center, 3rd Floor, Reg'l Office)	July 24, 2006 @ 9:00 a.m

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid in the following schedule and form:

Form	Minimum Amount % of Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC)
Cash or Cashier's Check or Manager's Check	1% of ABC
GSIS Surety Bond marked "Callable on Demand"	2.5% of ABC

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Region VII
Raul B. Chong, BAC Chairman
Cebu Regional Office, Gov. M. Cuenco Ave., Banilad, Cebu City
(Telephone Numbers: (032)232-1939 / (032)233-2264;
E-mail address: nfaro7@cvis.net.ph;
Website: www.nfacebu.net.ph)

(Sgd.) **RAUL B. CHONG**
RBAC Chairman/ARD

(PDI - June 30 & July 7, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM
CORPORATE OFFICE
4th Floor, Administration Building, MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105 Philippines
Tel. Nos. +63(+2) 922-3757; 922-2969 Fax No. +63(+2) 921-2887

INVITATION TO SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), as Project Sponsor, is hereby inviting prospective challengers / bidders to submit their Letter of Intent expressing interest for the "Swiss Challenge" of the proposal to Finance, Design, Construct, Operate and Maintain the 18.9 kms. North Luzon East Expressway (NLEE), Stage 1, Segments 1 & 2 "La Mesa Parkways" (La Mesa at Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City-San Jose del Monte, Norzagaray, Bulacan), using the Water Sensitive Urban Tollroad Technology, to include the catchments, swale filtration, production, storage and distribution of raw water, submitted by the Ausphil Tollways Corporation, the original proponent of the project through the Unsolicited mode of the Build, Operate, Transfer (BOT) Scheme.

The proposed bidding shall be conducted and facilitated together with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), as Co-Sponsor and Implementing Agency, and governed by the BOT Law (RA No. 7718) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and revised.

Submission of the Letter of Intent shall not be later than 17 July 2006 and addressed to:

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Ground Floor, Engineering Building
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Tel. No. 922-25-68 / 928-56-91

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(PDI - July 7 & 14, 2006)

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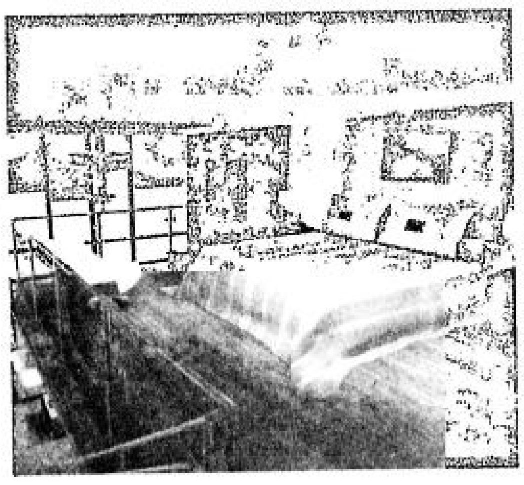

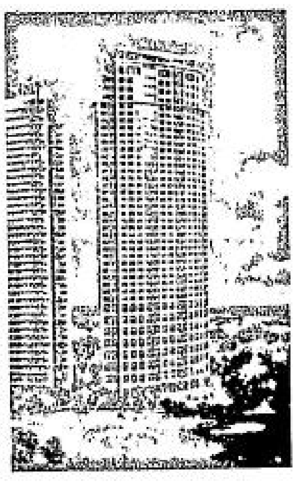

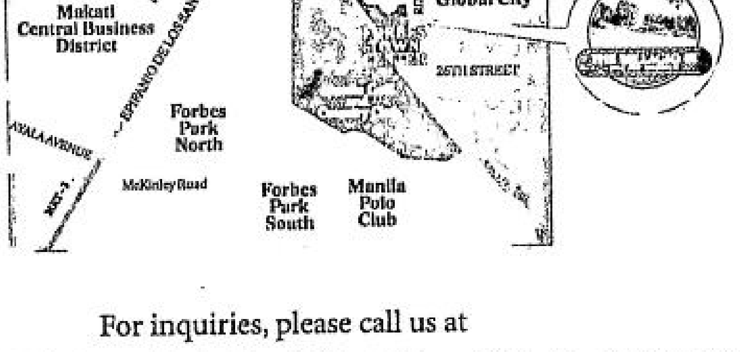
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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

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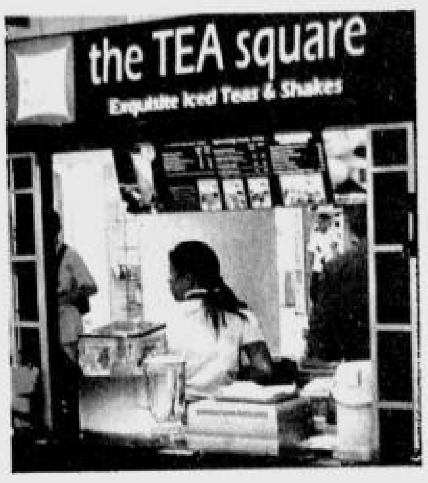

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Franchising firms head for the provinces

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FRANCHISING MAY not be considered a sunshine industry in the country like the much touted call center services sector, but it is hot on the trail of call centers in terms of growth and expansion plans.

Officials and new members of the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. agree that as more people take up the call of entrepreneurship, the tendency is for business to find new pastures outside Metro Manila.

Incidentally, this is the same direction that call center operators are taking as the supply of office space and skilled workers dwindle in the nation's capital.

Rommel Juan, AFFI public relations officer, says that even in the metropolis, members are consciously parking their outlets where call centers are.

Juan, who is also president of Binalot—known for its hot meals wrapped in banana leaves—says he has teamed up with four other AFFI members to set up a "mini-strip" in Makati City's Salcedo Village to take advantage of call center employees' need for food at their odd break times.

"After going to the same fast-food joints (night in and night out), these people would eventually be craving for variety," Juan explains. "That's the opportunity we are seizing."

He says the dining strip they have dubbed Hang Out would open this month near the corner of Valero and Dela Rosa Streets.

"It is so hard to secure good locations," he says. "When I luckily found space available, it was too big for Binalot's maximum need of 60 square meters, so I asked others to join in and it turns out to be an apparently swell idea."

JOEY Concepcion, presidential adviser on entrepreneurship, at the last expo of the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc.

Binalot is teaming up with Richard Sanz, whose brainchild Tea Square was recently inducted as a new member of AFFI along with 26 others, says that after successful runs of his venture's first four outlets in Metro Manila, he immediately set his sights on the regions.

Tea Square is pitching in to make the nine-year-old AFFI grow into a large group of homegrown franchise businesses.

"We set up an outlet in Cagayan de Oro City and it is now doing better than our Metro Manila branches," he says.

AFFI chair Tess Ngan Tian, owner of the Lots A Pizza chain, says opportunities in the provinces and regional cities are so promising that she is now putting up commissaries in the Visayas and Mindanao.

"Our top five branches are actually outside Metro Manila," she says. "Business is very good in our two outlets in Angeles City, two in Batangas and one in Laguna."

Ricardo Z. Cuna, current AFFI president and owner of ice cream chain Fiorgelato, says his three top performing outlets are also located outside the metropolis.

Cuna adds that a significant number of aspiring new entrepreneurs are from the provinces and many of them are from families of overseas Filipino workers.

He says two factors are contributing to the growth of local franchises—the drive among OFWs to put their hard-earned dollars into businesses and the expansion rush of mall operators over the past few years.

"Malls are our best vehicles for exposure and we are not passing up any chance to be able to operate in a mall," Cuna says. "Mall outlets may not be the better performing sites for our franchises but we treat the high rent as advertising expenses."

According to AFFI, there are now some 900 franchises in the local market, around 60 percent or 540 of which are homegrown brands.

In 2003, AFFI members represented some P3 billion in sales and this is expected to double soon.

"There is great interest in franchising and we expect AFFI to be a strong organization in the next few years," Cuna says.

AFFI is holding a franchising forum and exhibition called Franchising Fever at the SM Megatrade Hall in Mandaluyong City, from July 7-9.

Other members include Figaro Coffee Co., Aquabest, Sacred Heart School, Metropole Laundry, Waffle Waffle, Candy Corner and Royal Caribbean Jamaican Patties.

MORE Filipinos are checking out business opportunities in franchising.

the TEA square
Exquisite Iced Teas & Shakes

THE TEA Square is just two years old but is already making waves.

New concepts on the block

By Miko L. Morelos

LEMON WAS PROBABLY THE only flavor of tea a common man knew until Tea Square.

Since opening in 2004, Tea Square perhaps revolutionized tea drinking in the city, offering a wide variety of flavors that included berries—Strawberry, Raspberry, Cranberry and Cherry—and mint.

From a small brewing kiosk at the Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa, Tea Square has expanded to 13 outlets—five outlets are company-owned—found in malls such as Glorietta 4, Shangri-La Plaza and recently at SM Mall of Asia.

Tea Square is just one of the 26 new businesses that the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. has welcomed to its fold last week after a grueling evaluation of more than 30 applicants who wanted to be part of the organization.

AFFI president Ricardo Z. Cuna said the evaluation panel considered the quality of the applicants in terms of their values aside from their performance in the market and prospects for growth.

"We focused on the quality of new members during the screening as the panel interviewed every applicant," he said.

"We believe that a successful business lies on the owner's values. Also, some applicants were not yet ready to go franchising."

The evaluation process included checking the books of the business, plant inspections and personal interviews by the panel with the owners.

The new members of the organization are: The Unifood of Asia (TUFA), Tea Square, Sea Oil Philippines Inc., Reyes Barbeque, St. Scholastica's College, Exclusively His, Web Focus, Deli Fresh, E-novation-Inke, Fruitas, JM Peanut World, Etc., Brothers Burger, More Balls, Cellular City, Ystilo Salon, Big Apple Express, Bobson, Belgian Fries, Steak MD, Popoy's Grill, PR Gaz Haus, Mr. Softy Ice Cream, Anglo American Insurance Brokers Inc., Susi Ko, Mang Inasal, Web Focus and Penima Motors Inc.

The new additions bring to 73 the members of AFFI, a nationwide organization of Filipino entrepreneurs. Formed in 1997 by a group of franchise firms, the organization recognizes the possibility of an entrepreneur to expand its business through franchising.

Most of the businesses that were inducted to the organization during the 2006 AFFI fellowship night last June 29 at the Makati Sports Club came from the food sector, while St. Scholastica's College became the first educational institution to be part of the AFFI.

Cuna said the AFFI noticed some parallels in one of the college's undergraduate programs, Bachelor of Commerce major in Entrepreneurship and Franchising Management, to AFFI's goal of promoting franchising as mode of expanding one's business.

"Incidentally, some members of AFFI also gave lectures at St. Scholastica and knew about the curriculum of its Franchising Management course," Cuna said. "We saw the possibility of teaching young entrepreneurs about franchising from our experience."

Cuna added that despite the tough screening of applicants this year, these businesses made the cut because of their potential to grow big in their fields.

"All the new members are promising entrepreneurs from what I saw during the processing of their application," Cuna said. "Some of them are just starting up while others are already ripe to expand through franchising."

Still, he hoped that more businesses would join the AFFI because of the benefits the organization gives its members.

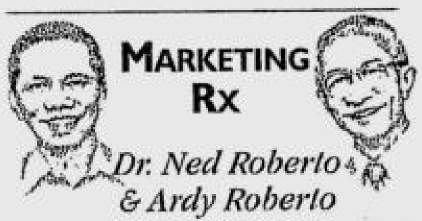
Every year, AFFI organizes seminars, conferences, franchise clinics, community projects and trade shows to interact and share each others experiences.

These events are also open to franchisees and budding entrepreneurs.

During the "Franchise Fever: The 5th Filipino Franchise Show 2006," AFFI will showcase members and their products to prospective businesspeople and franchisees.

The show also includes workshops and free mentoring from some of AFFI's veteran entrepreneurs.

What are the long-term effects of sales promos? - Part 2



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: I HAVE TWO QUESTIONS. FIRST, DO you have data on today's most used (and we assume, most effective) sales promo events and activities in the consumer market? Second, do you have data on what's the real effect of sales promotions?

By real, we refer to the long-term effect of sales promos as against short-term or immediate sales effects.

Our own experience is that practically all of our sales promos immediately increase sales. But later, sales of the promoted brand go back to previous sales levels, or even lower.

Is our experience typical or specific to us?

A: Last Friday, we answered your first question and the first part of your second question, now we'll continue answering your second question: Are sales promos becoming less and less profitable in the long-term?

The tracking research data of AC-Nielsen in the United States shows that the usual long-term effect of a sales promo campaign is declining sales.

And considering how expensive the typical sales promo campaign can be, this suggests that sales promo driven brands are becoming less and less profitable over time.

And yet, as we saw in our May 19 and 26 columns, large consumer companies still keep doing sales promo campaigns that are even more aggressive and expensive.

We explained that two forces are responsible. First is the "tyranny" of the quarterly sales quota.

During depressed times and in a depressed market, marketers seem to see no quicker way to raise sales than to do a "noisy, high profile" quarter-long sales promo.

Then, there's the pressure to match competitive companies that had fallen into this "spiral trap." It's a pressure that's hard to ignore.

Actually, we see a third, though as yet unacknowledged reason why companies fall into the sales promo pressure and spiral trap.

Companies are yet to adopt the sales effectiveness post testing of sale promo over time that extends over all four successive time periods we've explained.

The current practice is to post test just the first two periods with a few extending this to Period #3.

We've yet to find a company that's post testing up to Period #4.

Obviously, if the post testing were complete, i.e., extending to all four periods of the sales promo campaign, the spiral trap character of too much sales promotion would become clear.

Of course, it's so easy to say that the evaluation period should cover all four periods. In practice, it's a requirement that's difficult to implement.

One major reason is that sales promos often overlap in timing.

This obviously makes it difficult, if not impossible, to obtain valid data of your true Period #4 sales trend.

But this does not happen all the time. There are many occasions when there's a "rest period" between campaigns. If this is the case, take advantage and extend your evaluation to the last period.

Now, let's relate all these to your first question about today's most used or most sales effective promos.

It would be basically wrong to say that what is most used or most effective should also be your choice of promo in your sales promo campaign.

This is so even when you consider what we said in the May 19 and 26 about Blattberg's studies saying that practically any one specific promo event can perform most if not all of the 16 target consumer responses of sales promotion.

What should be remembered more is that each promo activity is best at triggering only one of these consumer responses.

For example, in inducing consumer purchase or usage trial, product sampling has the best record of delivering on consumer response even though other promos like price-off, discount, coupons, buy-one-take-one deals also induce trial purchases.

Today's "best practice" requires us to think of bundling several promo activities that would best serve your promo campaign's targeted bundle of consumer responses.

That bundle of consumer responses serves to clearly define your campaign's specific objectives.

The idea of bundling several promo tools in your sales promo campaign logically flows then from your model of how sales promos work toward long-term sales effectiveness.

For example, in our model of the four-period sales effectiveness of a sales promo campaign, we saw that there are four consumer responses to target, namely: inducing other brands' consumers to switch and try the sales promoting brand during Period #2; getting the current consumers of the sales promoting brand to move forward to Period #2 their scheduled later purchases in Period #3; getting the same current consumers to also increase their purchase volume as they move forward their later purchases; and finally, retaining the trial purchases by the other brands' consumers, and converting those into repeat purchases.

Best practice and experience have identified the one or two promo tools that will best serve: the targeted brand switching and trial purchase response in Period #2, the targeted current consumers' advanced purchases in Period #2, the targeted stocking or inventory purchases of current consumers in Period #2, and the targeted consumer repeat purchases in Period #4.

It follows then that if marketers are to effectively aim for long-term sales effectiveness of their sales promo campaign, the bundling of promo tools is necessary. *(Send questions to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or through SMS at 0919-314-5412).*

Fashion from recycled materials is the new rage in Europe

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LYNNE Milgram, a canadian anthropologist, says bags and accessories made from discarded fruits juice has became vogue in Europe thanks to the enterprise of women in Manila and Apayao.

BAGUIO CITY—-MAYOR BETTY VERZOLA of Luna, Apayao, recently visited La Trinidad, Benguet, wearing a bright orange sun hat and carrying a matching handbag.

She attracted a lot of stares because her ensemble was cut and stitched together from discarded orange fruit juice containers.

They did not know that her get-up was the latest in fashion in Europe.

According to Dr. Betty Lynne Milgram, a Canadian anthropologist, who presented a paper at the University of the Philippines Baguio last week, handbags and accessories from recycle materials have become a fashion phenomenon overseas.

She explained that there was keen market interest in the handbags and hats because these feature fruits not common to that part of the world.

"The juice drink bags currently in fashion abroad are those that picture Asian exotic fruits, and remember, because these are exported, people are looking for what they don't have at home in Europe and in North American cities [such as] mango, coconuts, calamansi and durian," Milgram said, quoting her study.

She said the prospects were so good that a European firm has started to look for its own supply of fruit drink packages from Asia.

She said Europeans patronizing the products were aware these recycled handbags were being manufactured by poor women of Manila, and that added to the products' appeal.

Milgram, a professor of the Ontario College of Arts and Designs, had been intrigued by the positive impact of the underground garments trade like Baguio's ukay-ukay (used clothes) on Asian women.

She said used clothes empower them in a world where "the hegemony of global capital" should ordinarily cause small enterprises "to lose their autonomy" as they strive to compete in a market that is controlled by the bigger enterprises.

"In this way, Philippine women use the markets in innovative and sometimes disruptive ways, not as [a vehicle to control] economic exchange but as potent instruments in their own chosen formative and cultural consumer politics," she said.

For months now, Milgaram has been observing Kilus Multipurpose Cooperative in Manila, an eight-year-old manufacturing firm that managed to supply 50,000 novelty bags to the foreign market.

More interesting, she said, was the fact that the cooperative bagged the contracts without using the normal trade channels of businesses.

Like Kilus, the women of Luna, Apayao, have also gathered enough momentum to supply European orders, Verzola said.

She was here last week to receive a merit award on behalf of Luna women from Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Some of Baguio's fashion designers have also landed contracts due to the vast amount of recyclable fabric available from discarded clothes, now being resold at the city's wagwagan (wagwag is another term for ukay-ukay), said Hilson Busoy, a local designer.

Milgram said Europeans appreciate the fact that these bags have their own intricate design patterns.

She said Kilus, for example, processes its materials like a factory line, with workers divided among sections.

Some sort the materials to get the best carton specimens and design. Others do stitching and quality control.

"Home decorating [and fashion] magazines… are displayed at the workshop for artisans' reference. A designer explains [that the magazines alert them] to the popular colors [of a year]. One year, red is the popular color. That year simulates strawberry juice drink [cartons]. The next year, when green is in demand, they design patterns with calamansi juice drink packs and so on," Milgram said.

"The cooperative management stays informed about global fashion taste so that their bags can remain competitive in a globally changing market," she said.

These women have started to experiment with other fashion products using fruit juice cartons' colors, she said.

Kilus has started producing sandal straps for footwear, and the products were well received in test marketing surveys, she said.

The cooperative also began testing how discarded containers of tomato sauce and catsup can be used for fashion gear, including jewelry.

MILGRAM presented a study on the demand for recycled products at the University of the Philippines in Baguio

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Amid complex strategic choices, leaders, managers go for 'laws'

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

(Second of two parts)

IN THE MIDST OF INFORMATION OVERLOAD on the so-called "best", "time-tested" and "fail-safe" marketing strategies and tactics, you can almost hear confused and exasperated leaders and managers saying: "Enough!"

This is one phenomenon of the age. In this complex world, people thirst for the simple—and, yes, the elemental. With the avalanche of choices, people yearn for old-fashioned order.

Imagine the chief marketing officer or a CEO bewitched, bothered and bewildered by so many tactics offered by numberless consultants, innumerable books—and his irrepressible board!

This explains the widespread hunger for a set of principles, leaving tactics and methods to the leader and manager.

And this explains the drawing power of the "Al Ries Brand Marketing Conference," held recently at the Philippine Plaza.

The father-and-daughter tandem, Al and Laura Ries talked about the "immutable" laws—meaning, unchanging, forever relevant, and eternally constant principles.

Take the "Law of Leadership," for example. The Rieses have a one-liner to explain it: "It's better to be first than it is to be better." And they cite known brands—Coca Cola, McDonald's, and IBM. That looked unarguable, at first glance.

And there is another law that seemed to contradict the first, according to one participant—the "Law of the Opposite"—which is also a one-liner: "If you're not the leader, then you need to be the opposite."

They cited Pepsi Cola, which became the cola of the "younger crowd"—and thus was born the "Pepsi Generation." Coke is 120 years old.

So, in the midst of such seeming contradictions, why are the Rieses so credible? The reason could be that one law works for one, and another law works for another. They are not actually contradictory; they may be stand-alone laws that work.

Another participant pointed out the seeming conflict between the laws of "focus" and of "divergence". The focus law stipulates: "Every company needs to resist the temptation to keep adding products and services."

The Rieses, underscoring the need to focus, compared the success of Southwest Airlines, which they called a "one-fork" airline—no other destinations but business, no other class but coach, and no other flights but domestic.

The other airlines take the best of many worlds. They observed: Southwest is currently worth $12.4 billion, or more than three times the other airlines.

In another breath, though, they offered the "Law of Divergence," with this explanation: "Over time, a category will diverge and become two or more categories.

Taking off from Charles Darwin's "Origin of the Species," they explained: "A species starts out as a single species and then, over time, diverges… Divergence has created new categories of automobiles such as the sport utility vehicle and the mini van."

The Rieses have been observing the marketplace and have come up with the "natural laws" that govern the market—and gave each law a name.

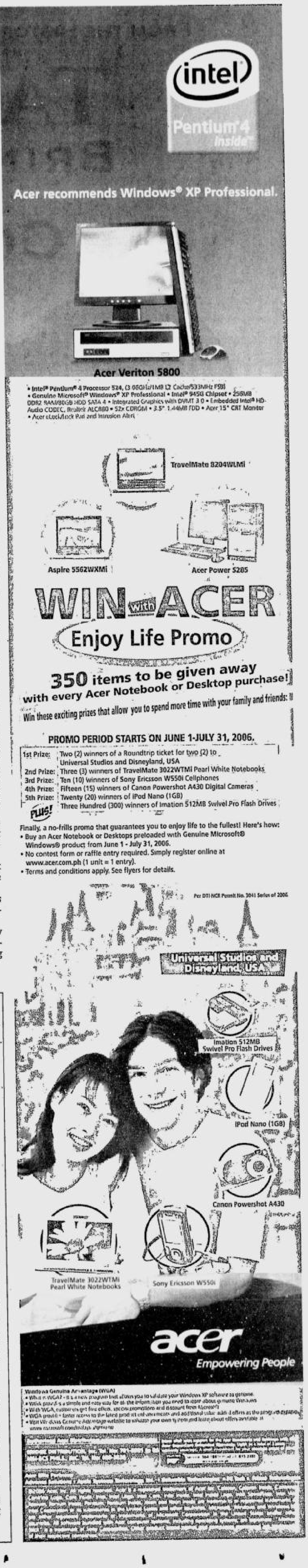
These laws seemed to have stood the test of time simply because they provided some "anchors" or "principles" to market players. In turn, these players took these principles to heart—and their actions were blessed with success. A principle that has spawned many successes must be a valid one.

That is the reason behind the ever growing following of the speaking, writing and consulting tandem. Such activities reinforce one another.

The books that precede their visits country-to-country or city-to-city continue to have a growing following. Thus when a conference is organized with them at center stage, such a gathering is consistently assured with great success.

There is actually a heartwarming quality that Al and Laura share: While they are mentors to over half a million people around the globe, they are also enthusiastic learners.

That's the secret behind their success. Their capacity to listen is as huge as their capacity to be heard in a very compelling and inspiring way.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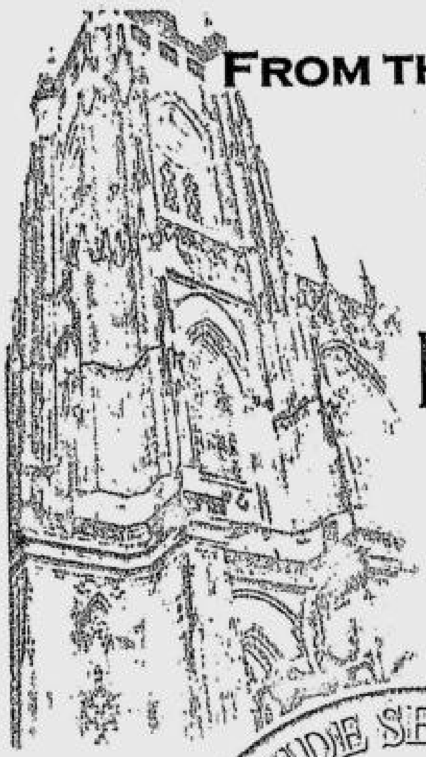

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TANDUAY WINS 6 MORE MONDE SELECTION MEDALS, bringing to 117 the total number of international awards won to-date.

Continuing its 152-year tradition of product excellence and superiority, Tanduay recently won 6 major international awards in the prestigious 2006 Monde Selection held in the city of Prague, in the Czech Republic.

Cossack Vodka, not surprisingly, won a gold medal for the fifth time in the Monde Selection which brings its total to eight medals won since 1981. **Gin...Kapitan** got a silver medal for the second time around. Medals were also awarded to four products which joined the Selection for the first time, **Tanduay 1854** and **Tanduay Primiero (Ron 8 Años)** won gold medals, **Barcelona Brandy** got a silver medal while **Guerrero Brandy** garnered a bronze.

MONDE SELECTION

H.E. Amb. Carmelita R. Salas, Phil. Ambassador to the Czech Republic (center), receiving the medals in behalf of Tanduay Distillers, from Mr. Patrick de Halleux, Pres., Monde Selection (left) and Mr. Joseph Bessemans, Pres. of the Tasting Board, Spirits and Liqueurs (right).

Monde Selection is an independent international institute based in Brussels, Belgium and considered as the oldest and most respected organization in the field of quality wine and liquor selections worldwide.

This year's awarding ceremony was held in historic Prague, in the Czech Republic, site of some of the oldest, most exquisitely architectured cathedrals and castles in the world. The capital of the former Czechoslovakia, Prague was also the birthplace of one of the sons of the Philippine Revolution, Dr. Ferdinand Blumentritt, hero, scholar and closest friend of the man he considered as "the greatest man the Malayan race has ever produced," Dr. Jose P. Rizal.

Tanduay 1854, the commemorative rum introduced in 2004 to celebrate Tanduay's 150th year anniversary, won a gold medal on its first entry into the competitive arena of Monde Selection. All the experts raved over the rich flavor of the rum which they say is "almost butter caramel, with high vanilla notes and light traces of eucalyptus." It has the "bouquet of oak elements" from 15 years of ageing in old Kentucky Bourbon casks, leading to a nicely balanced rum finish.

Tanduay Primiero (Ron 8 Años) won a gold medal on its first entry in Monde Selection and was described by the panel as "mellow and round on the palate" with a good intensity of flavor and a hint of toast in its bouquet.

MONDE SELECTION
2006
BRUXELLES
COSSACK

Cossack Vodka has been consistently winning medals in the Monde Selection since 1981. The new gold medal is Cossack's fifth gold in the eight medals it previously won and reinforces its consistent position as the "finest of Vodka with a clear, crisp taste and warmth in its heart."

2004 Monde Selection Silver medalist **Gin...Kapitan** was again awarded another silver medal this year, having been rated highly for its clean taste, flavor and appeal.

1st time entrants **Barcelona Brandy** and **Guerrero Brandy** were also recognized as exceptional standouts in their category, having been awarded silver and bronze medals, respectively.

MONDE SELECTION
2006
BRUXELLES

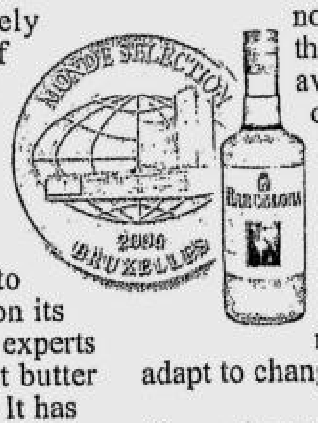
Receiving the medals in behalf of Tanduay Distillers during the Monde Selection Awards Ceremony was H.E. Amb. Carmelita Rodriguez Salas, Philippine Ambassador to the Czech Republic. On hand to present the medals were Mr. Patrick de Halleux, President of Monde Selection, Ms. Florence de Halleux, Vice President of Monde Selection and Mr. Joseph Bessemans, President of the Tasting Board, Spirits and Liqueurs.

Ambassador Salas commended Tanduay for this achievement and for bringing more honor to the Philippines by showing to the world what the Filipino Spirit of creativity and excellence can achieve in a highly competitive global market. "These medals inspire us all to push ourselves to the limits and surpass all expectations of the world's diverse markets," Ambassador Salas stressed.

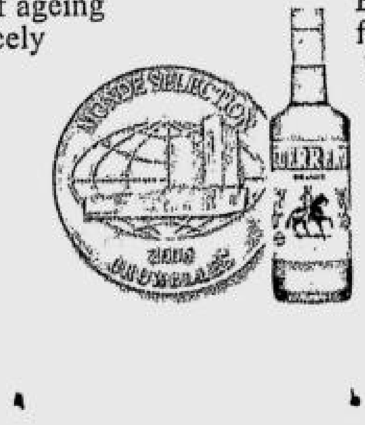
MONDE SELECTION
2006
BRUXELLES
KAPITAN

According to Mr. Wilson Young , Tanduay Distillers' Chief Operating Officer who was present during the awarding ceremony, these international awards signify once and for all that Filipino products can stand up high with world renowned brands. They also serve as a testament that the Filipino can compete against the world's best and be a class of its own, giving a big toast to the Filipino Spirit of ingenuity, dedication and hard work.

Since its establishment in 1854, Tanduay has been synonymous with consistent excellence and product superiority. For more than 150 years now, the company has been producing quality liquor products that continue to guin recognition from prestigious, international award-giving bodies. Proof of this is the 117 awards the company has won so far – an overwhelming achievement in the liquor industry, or any industry for that matter.



Tanduay owes this tradition of excellence to the expert helmsmanship of its beloved Chairman, Dr. Lucio C. Tan and to its people who never stop to produce the best quality products at the most reasonable cost. Their devotion and never-ending quest for excellence build up year to year to adapt to changing times and growing expectations.



Beyond awards, however, Tanduay's excellence is also bolstered by the fact that it is the second largest seller of rum in the world. Currently, Tanduay has distribution channels in China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Saipan, Australia, the US Mainland, Canada, Guam, Hawaii and New Zealand.

As Tanduay continues to win international awards and enters other countries in the world, year after year, the company reinforces its commitment to solidify its position as a global brand and crystallizes its vision of "One World. One Spirit."

DRINK MODERATELY

LifeStyle
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Contributing editors Apples Aberin-Sadhwani and Jenni Epperson
FASHION

Shining, shimmering, splendid

Swarovski's Spring 2007 line brings new meaning to the phrase 'clash of the titans'

EVERY YEAR, TRENDSETTERS say the same thing: It's about individuality. It's about daring to be different.

Yet, every year we see the same things—fashion lines that remind us of our mother's era or accessories that hark back to our '80s pop star-wannabe youth. Fashion, design, architecture and art have become as cyclical as my washing machine.

Jenni Epperson

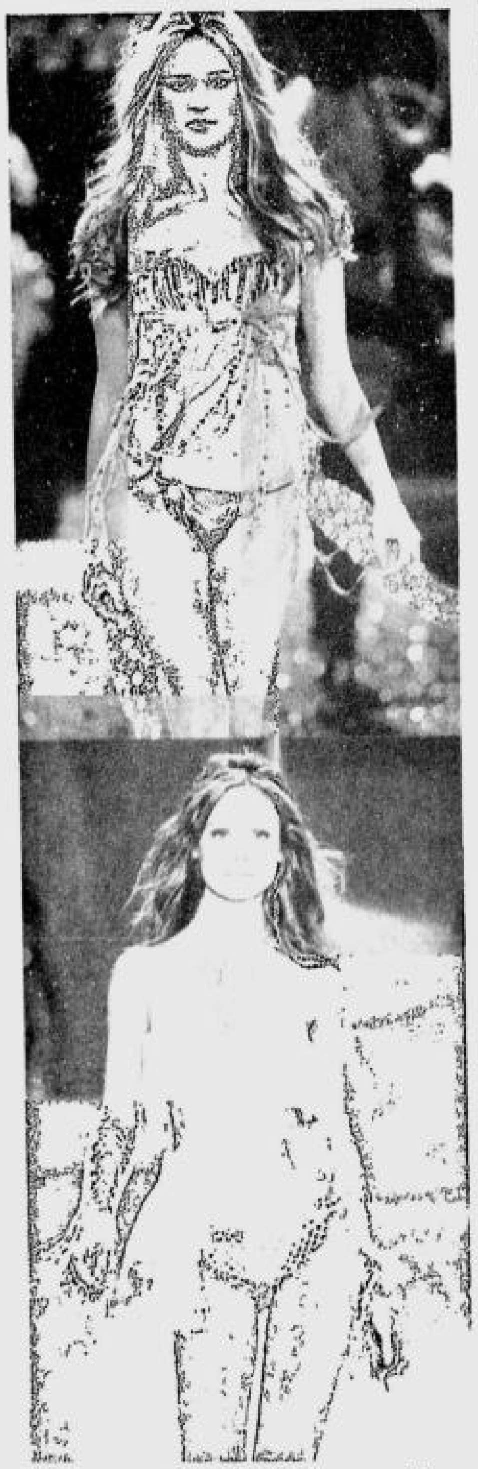
Humans are contradictory by nature: Madonna-whore, Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde, sweet and spicy. We're three-dimensional, not paper dolls. Though I appreciate monochromatic fashion, I am easily bored by monochromatic personalities.

So it is truly refreshing when true artistry and rich personality come to the forefront of fashion, art and design. Recently, Swarovski presented its Crystallized Cosmos Spring 2006/2007 collection in Hong Kong at the third Asia Fashion and Jewelry Fair.

The collection was not only a result of Swarovski's collaboration with various international designers, but was also an exercise in forecasting trends.

Swarovski's acceptance of contradictions

SHINING/ C3



BODYLICIOUS. Victoria's Secret models clad in skimpy skivvies and sparkling crystals

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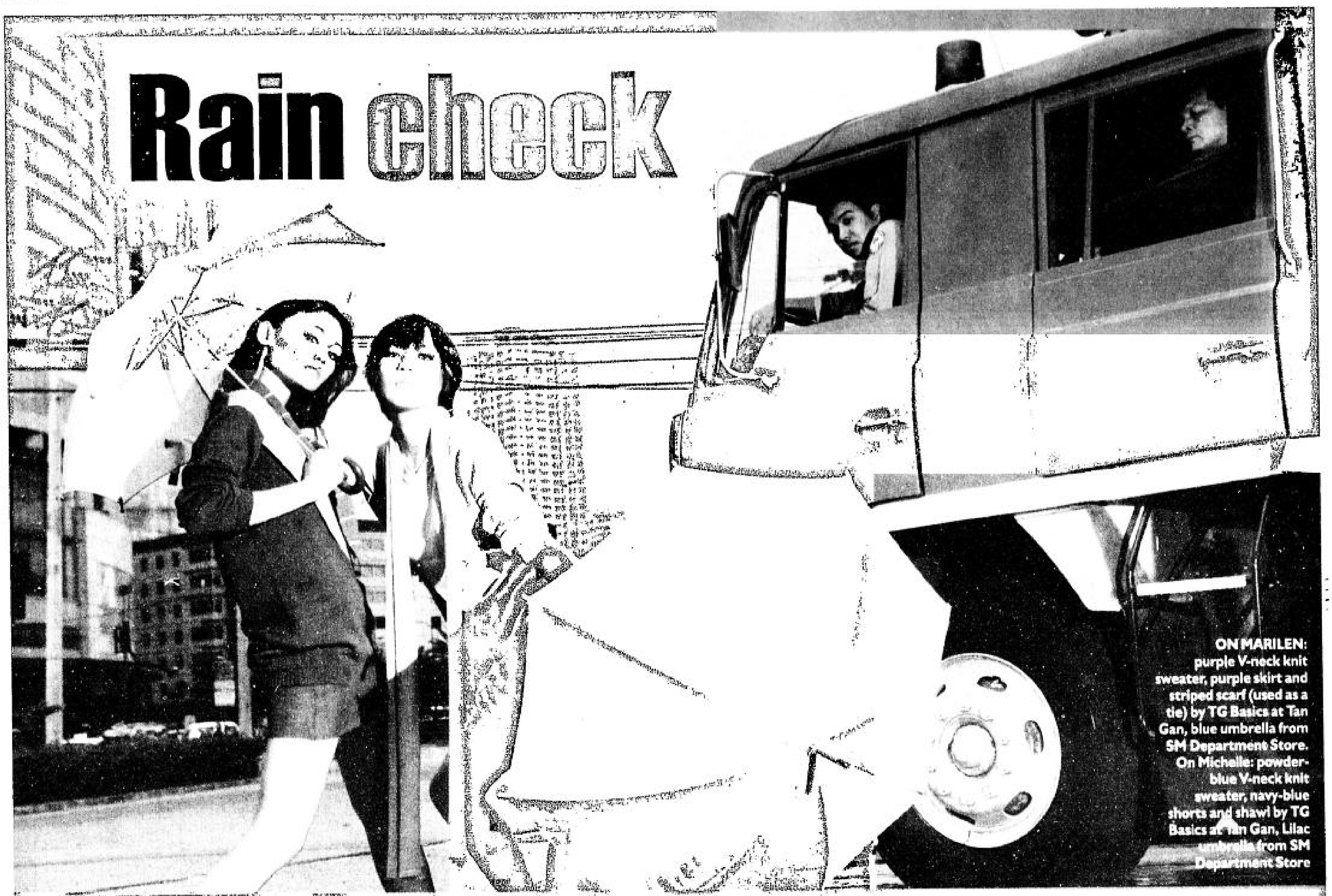
Rain check



ON MARILEN: purple V-neck knit sweater, purple skirt and striped scarf (used as a tie) by TG Basics at Tan Gan, blue umbrella from SM Department Store. On Michelle: powder-blue V-neck knit sweater, navy-blue shorts and shawl by TG Basics at Tan Gan, Lilac umbrella from SM Department Store

By Cheche V. Moral

IN THE WEST, THIS IS THE period when swimsuits resurface from hibernation for lots of bake-in-the-sun action. But hereabouts, now's the time when all things summer scamper for shade as rain gear takes reign. At least in principle.

[illegible] local stores [illegible] challenge [illegible] footwear intended for the rainy days. Shoppers still think rain boots are those mammoth black rubber kinds [illegible] and practical, but not exactly pretty.

Wellies, as the Brits call them, in [illegible] now come in a shower of colors. Hardly the [illegible] selection [illegible] rainy [illegible] like London but an improvement.

Even then, only the fashionable few would take to wearing rubber boots, says stylist Maureen Disini. Boots were big in the last [illegible] season, though, so for the few who have stylish [illegible], these colorful rubber Wellies can find a place in their rainy-day wardrobe.

"They're really good for college students in flood-prone campuses," Disini says. "They can take off from last season and tuck in their jeans under these colorful boots instead of wearing sneakers. No need to bring an extra pair of shoes. They're not only practical, they're also affordable," retailing at about P300 a pair.

Disini also says that Filipinos are generally too lazy to bring umbrellas so that foldable plastic raincoats may be the sensible alternative. No cumbersome [illegible] carry on since they can be folded and easily stashed in one's bag. Raincoats now also come in clear, transparent and pastel colors that can complement one's outfit, and quite a steal, too, at P99 for [illegible].

[illegible] fashionable [illegible] stylist [illegible]: "We'd rather get drenched in the rain than put on something ugly for the season." Which perhaps also explains why not many local retailers see a market for trendy rain gear [illegible] stylish rain togs from abroad [illegible] to reach our shores.

Of course, being unfashionable is one thing; being impractical is another. There's nothing more uncool than dripping like a wet pooch in your shoes, however nice a pair they are.

Disini says you can make those trusty umbrellas work [illegible] for you [illegible].

You can inject some style in [illegible] with even your umbrellas, she suggests. Whether [illegible] solid color or in [illegible] plaids, stripes, polka dots, an umbrella can work like a [illegible] outfit [illegible] stream of sunshine in the dreariest [illegible] weather [illegible] the tempestuous [illegible].

Why [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Wellies, as the Brits call those rain boots, now come in a shower of colors

MULTICOLORED [illegible] by TG Basics [illegible] Tan Gan [illegible] by SM Department Store

ON MARILEN: [illegible] [illegible] TG Basics at Tan Gan [illegible] SM Department Store [illegible] On Michelle: [illegible]

KHAKI [illegible] by TG Basics at Tan Gan [illegible]

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Rain check

ON MARILEN: purple V-neck knit sweater, purple skirt and striped scarf (used as a tie) by TG Basics at Tan Gan, blue umbrella from SM Department Store. On Michelle: powder-blue V-neck knit sweater, navy-blue shorts and shawl by TG Basics at Tan Gán, Lilac umbrella from SM Department Store

By Checkie Y. Moral

IN THE WEST, THIS IS THE period when swimsuits come [illegible] from hibernation, for [illegible] to bake in the sun action. But hereabouts, now's the time when all things summer scamper for shade as rain gear takes reign, at least in principle.

[illegible] footwear intended for the rainy days. Shop[illegible] still think rain boots are those [illegible] black rubber [illegible] practical but [illegible]

Wellies, as the Brits call them, now come in a shower of colors [illegible] selection [illegible] an improvement.

[illegible] only the fashionable few would [illegible] wearing rubber boots [illegible] Maureen Drum[illegible] Boots were big in the [illegible] though [illegible] colorful rubber wellies can find [illegible] rainy day wardrobe.

"They're really good for college students [illegible] from last season [illegible] rubber boots instead of wearing [illegible] They're not only practical, they're also affordable [illegible] about P300 a pair.

[illegible] Filipinos are generally [illegible] umbrella [illegible] foldable [illegible]

[illegible] they can be folded easily [illegible] come in [illegible] colors that can complement [illegible] outfit [illegible] boot style.

[illegible] which explains why not many local retailers [illegible] market for trendy rain [illegible] seem to reach our shores.

Of course, being unfashionable is one thing, being impractical is another. There's nothing more uncool than dripping like a wet poodle [illegible] a pair [illegible]

[illegible] you can make those trendy [illegible]

"You can inject some style [illegible] outfits [illegible] umbrella [illegible] she suggests. [illegible]

Why [illegible]

Wellies, as the Brits call those rain boots now come in a shower of colors

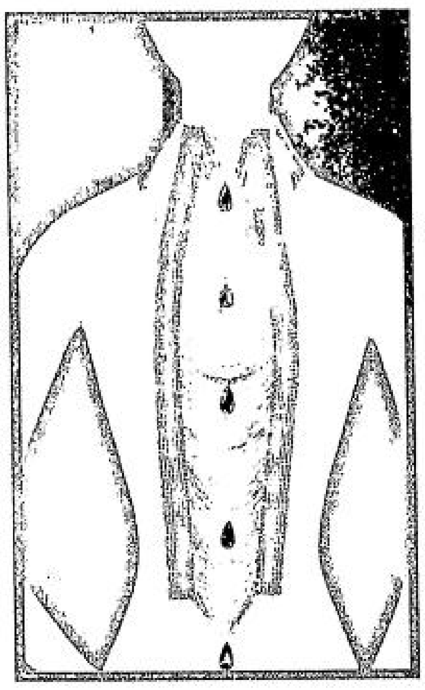
MULTICOLORED [illegible] by TG Basics at Tan Gan, [illegible] boots by SM Department Store

ON MARILEN: [illegible] TG Basics [illegible] On Michelle [illegible] TG Basics [illegible]

[illegible] by TG Basics [illegible] by SM D[illegible]

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

CRYSTALLIZED COSMOS TRENDS SPRING/SUMMER 2007



Shining, shimmering, splendid

From page C1

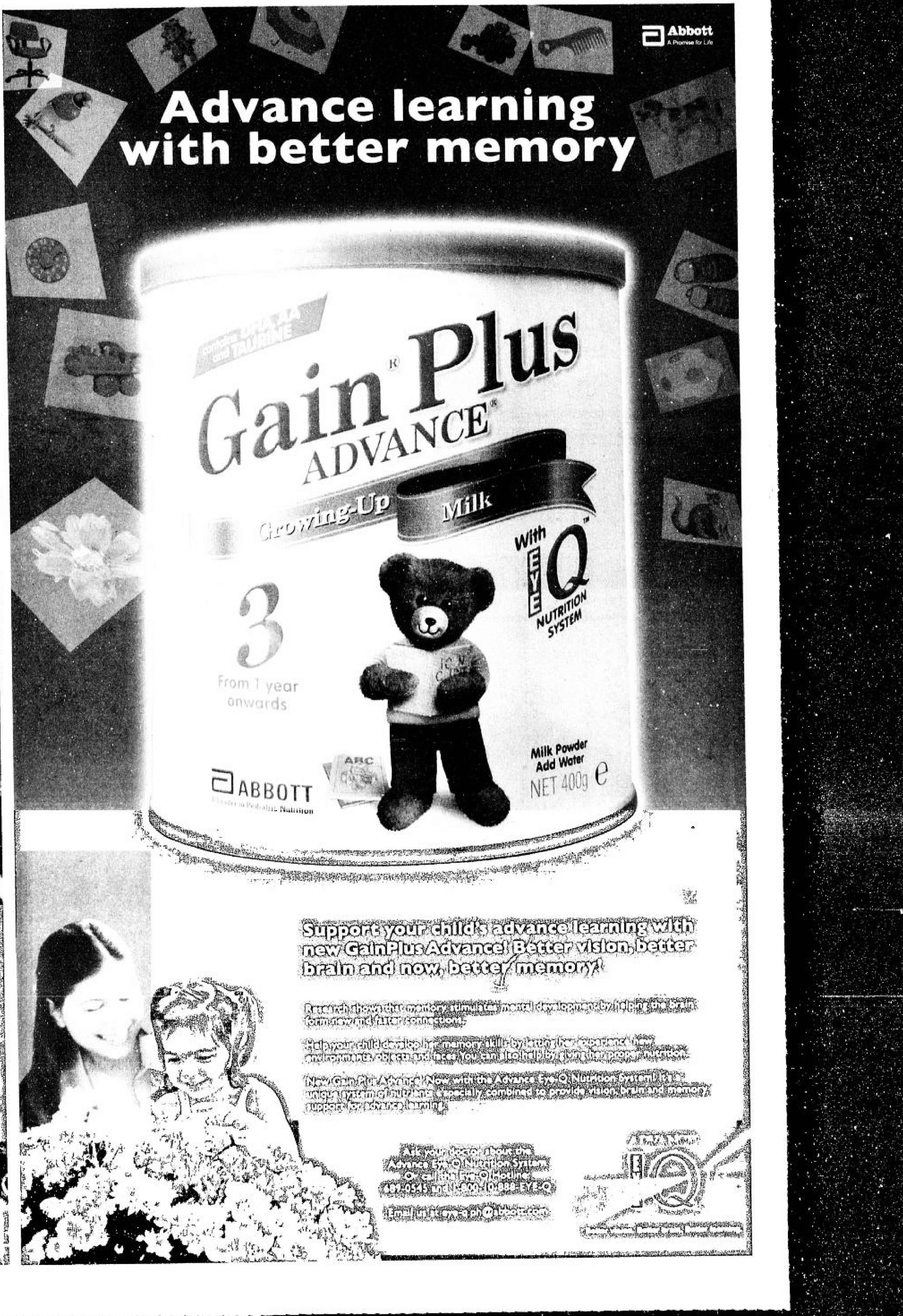
in human nature has resulted in designs that truly revealed a clear-cut desire for individual expression. The collection was true, real and factual, with lines that speak the truth: nature/artifice, bitter/sweet, perfect/flawed, random/constructed and seduction/restraint.

We live in a world of opposites that seem to be forever clashing but, like a chemical experiment gone right, also results in something perfect!

A must-see for crystal designs that exemplified shiny, shimmery, splendid (and sexy!) was the work of Aussie designer Jenny Manik Mercian of Manik|Mercian. Her collection—"Tribal Industria"—was a fusion of India's ancient beading techniques and today's modern steel-skyscrapers cityscape. The results were modern-exotique, a true crystallization of Swarovski crystal, precious and semi-precious stones, gold, sterling silver, antique crystal, cultivated pearls, handmade beads and unusual fabrics. You couldn't deny her designs' sexiness, because Victoria's Secret, the last word in sexiness, has called them "shockingly beautiful."

Just when you thought crystals were just for chandeliers, Swarovski showed yet another way to—I'm quoting Matthew McConaughey here—"frost yourself."

E-mail author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph



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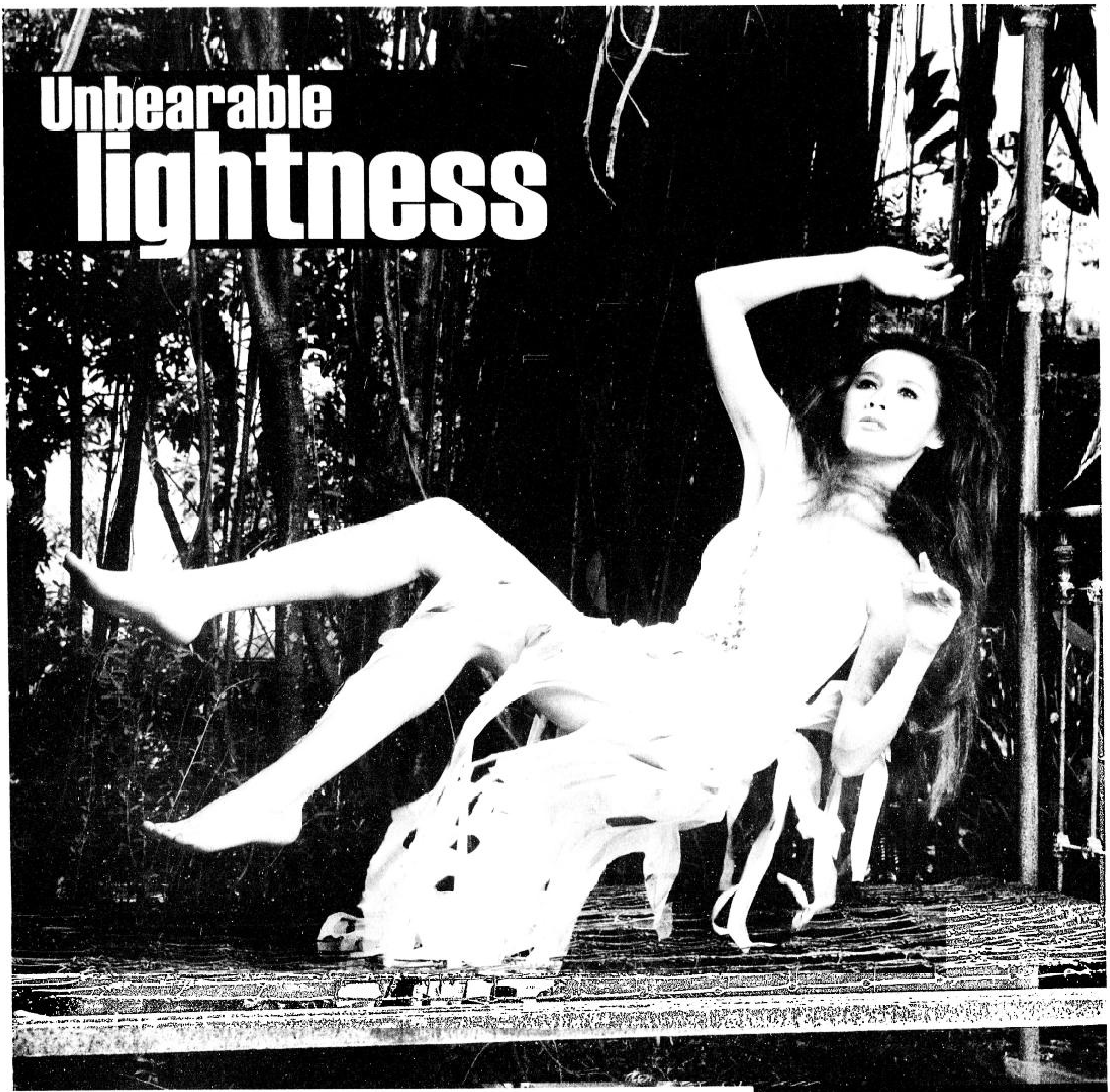
Unbearable lightness



WHITE bustier fringe dress by Jerome Salaya Ang (0917-6191270)

Young designers Jon Gaskell Fernando, Jerome Salaya Ang and Allain Dumon Fonte interpret images of the female form suspended between heaven and earth

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jun de Leon
(using Phase One Digital Back)
Styled by Millet Arzaga

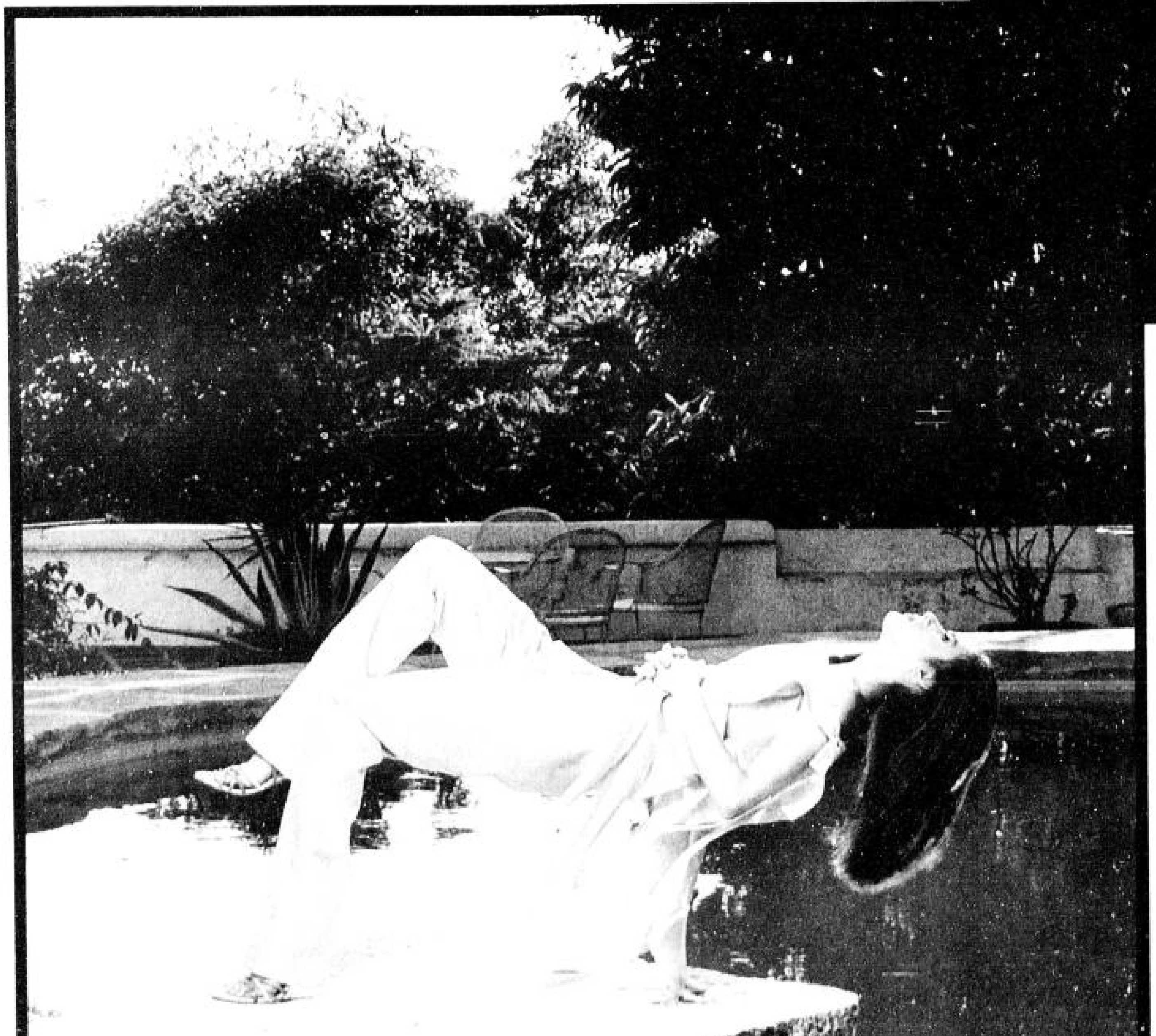
WHEN JUN DE LEON signed up Millet Arzaga to style this editorial—the "resurrection" of Emily Rose (inspired by the Hollywood horror-suspense flick "The Exorcism of Emily Rose")—the stylist took on three relatively unknown designers to interpret the lensman's vision of "distortions" and "movements"—varied images of a young woman suspended in mid-air, supine.

Arzaga, one of De Leon's favored collaborators, says it has been hers and some of her colleagues' mission to push for designers that "have potential" but whose talents, unlike some of their contemporaries, are largely unrecognized and, uh, un-hyped.

From an editorial point of view, there's also the advantage of working with up-and-coming designers who are only too enthusiastic to put their work out there. They make new clothes.

Unlike the usual suspects, these lesser-known designers almost always come up with new clothes specific to the theme of a shoot, says Arzaga. "Most often we don't have budget for these shoots, but even at the last

UNBEARABLE/ C5



LIME top and pants by Jon Gaskell Fernando (0917-8137010)

MAKEUP
[illegible]
[illegible]
MODEL
[illegible]
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FACE by Abbygale Arenas-de Leon for Lancôme

Unbearable lightness

From page C4

minute [they] would come up with something. Others would just lend you what's available"—clothes that have seen print in every glossy and broadsheet in town.

One such guy is Jon Gaskell Fernando, who was in De Leon's shortlist. The low-key Fernando dresses up the likes of Boy Abunda and some of Vicki Belo's clients, according to Arzaga. "His look is soft and feminine… His clothes have something special about them. Jon comes up with unexpected details. There's always an element of surprise."

Jerome Salaya Ang, who got mixed reviews in the recent Philippine Fashion Week, "is fashion-forward," opines the stylist. She adds Ang had come up with his leather cutout boots used for this shoot even before Alexander McQueen sent out his version for Spring 2006's runway shows.

"Jerome is innovative," Arzaga notes. "And his work is *malinis* (clean)."

Cebu-based Allain Dumon Fonte came into the picture on the recommendation of Arzaga's sister, an events organizer and director. The stylist's verdict: "He has potential."

BLACK and white fringe dress and boots by Jerome Salaya Ang (0917-6191270)

PALE peach outfit by Allain Dumon Fonte (032-4166916/0920-3756492)

---

cut & keep

Figure fixers

By Donna Cuna-Pita
Contributor

EVERYBODY HAS A BODY part (or two) they want to have less of or, in some cases, more of. Read on and learn how to create the illusion of a better body without surgery.

Big stomach or 'puson'

Do:

1. Wear control-top panties. The underwear will help keep your stomach in and help fitted clothes glide over your problem area.

2. Wear shift dresses. The forgiving shape of this dress and its classic cut will make you look slimmer and fashionable at the same time.

Don't:

1. Wear low- or high-waist pants. The best kind for you has a waistband that stops at the middle of your stomach. Why? Because having it lower will highlight your *puson*, and wearing your pants above your bellybutton will make it bulge out even more.

2. Wear light-colored tops. Light colors will highlight the area even more and attract attention. So if you're trying to hide your tummy, it would be best to wear a dark top with a light-colored bottom.

Small breasts

Do:

1. Wear a slightly padded and/or underwired bra. It's important to make your boobs look realistically bigger and not make you look like you have sexy-starlet aspirations.

2. Wear tops or dresses that have interesting details in the front like ruffles or prints. The extra fabric will make your chest area look fuller and will also add interest to your outfits.

Don't:

1. Wear super-tight, dark-colored tops. Really tight tops will compress your chest even more and dark colors will make your chest area less pronounced.

Big arms

Do:

1. Wear tops with sleeves that stop below the fullest part of your arms. Having your sleeves end at the chunkiest area of your arms will highlight the width even more. Letting the sleeves go past it will conceal it and draw the eyes to the slimmer area.

2. Wear a halter top if you must go sleeveless. A halter-cut top or dress creates the illusion of slimmer arms more effectively than a tube top or spaghetti-strap tank top.

Don't:

1. Wear cap-sleeved tops or dresses. Cap sleeves stop right before the fullest part of your arms and only look good on really slender people.

Big hips

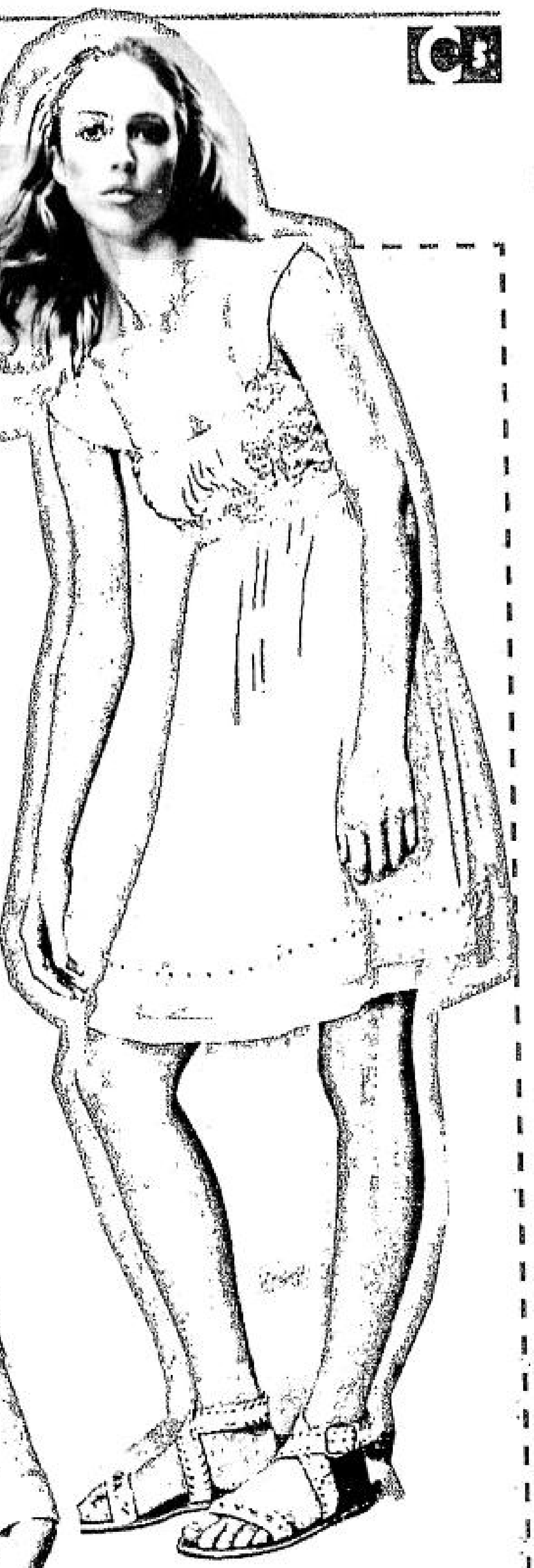
Do:

1. Wear A-line skirts or dresses. The looser fit of these items will blur the width of your hips and highlight your slimmer waist.

2. Wear straight-cut or slightly flared pants. Skinny jeans and tapered cuts will only highlight your hips even more. Straight or boot-cut pants will streamline your silhouette and make your legs look longer.

Don't:

1. Wear pencil-cut skirts. Wearing a tight, pencil-cut skirt will draw attention to your hips and show the difference in width of your hip area compared with the rest of your body.



EMPIRE-CUT dresses or tops look sexy while doing double-duty concealing your tummy.

PHOTO FROM LOUIS VUITTON'S S/S '06 COLLECTION

SLEEVES that stop below the fullest part of your arms will make your arms look slimmer.

PHOTO FROM JESSICA'S S/S '06 COLLECTION

BOLD prints near the chest area will add depth and visual interest.

PHOTO FROM JESSICA'S S/S '06 COLLECTION

A FLOWING, dark skirt will streamline and minimize your hips.

PHOTO FROM EPISODE S/S '06 COLLECTION

MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS

Proudly 'lokal'

By Genea Padilla
Contributor

AGES AGO, THE TERM "STATESIDE" was an all-around magic word for all sorts of things, from clothing to canned goods.

We have yet to stamp out the idea of the superiority of all things foreign, but aren't we all glad the "stateside" buzz has gone out of fashion?

The Philippines is a young country. If she were a woman she'd probably fall in the late teens or early 20s (but one who's been through the mill, so a little patriotic loving goes a long way). Well, she just had a birthday, and although Independence Day was a couple of weeks ago, it's never too late for some flag-waving.

This pictorial is a nod to Filipino creativity and can-do attitude. Talent and good taste abound in our islands, and many among young Pinoys are finally beginning to recognize it.

This is not about reverse snobbery. Go and enjoy your favorite imports, but just remember to keep your eyes peeled for fantastic Philippine-made items. They are out there in abundance. Some are even finding their way to those fancy-shmancy "stateside" fashion magazines!

TONICHI Balaguer dons a Tru beige pebbled leather bag, Sapato Manila sandals and Kashieca white cotton blouse.

MARIEL Chua in Bayo shirt and shorts, Shu Bizz cork sandals and Avatar earrings

MARCO Alcaraz in Bench knit shirt and jeans

CHARMAINE Palermo in Viktor Jeans and Janylin flats

ORANGE Aberin wears a Tyler teal tunic and Fino white leather bag.

MUTYA Laxa clutches an Aranaz purse and wears a Debbie Co midnight blue shrug.

MAFAE Yunon-Belasco wears Label's silver wedge shoes.

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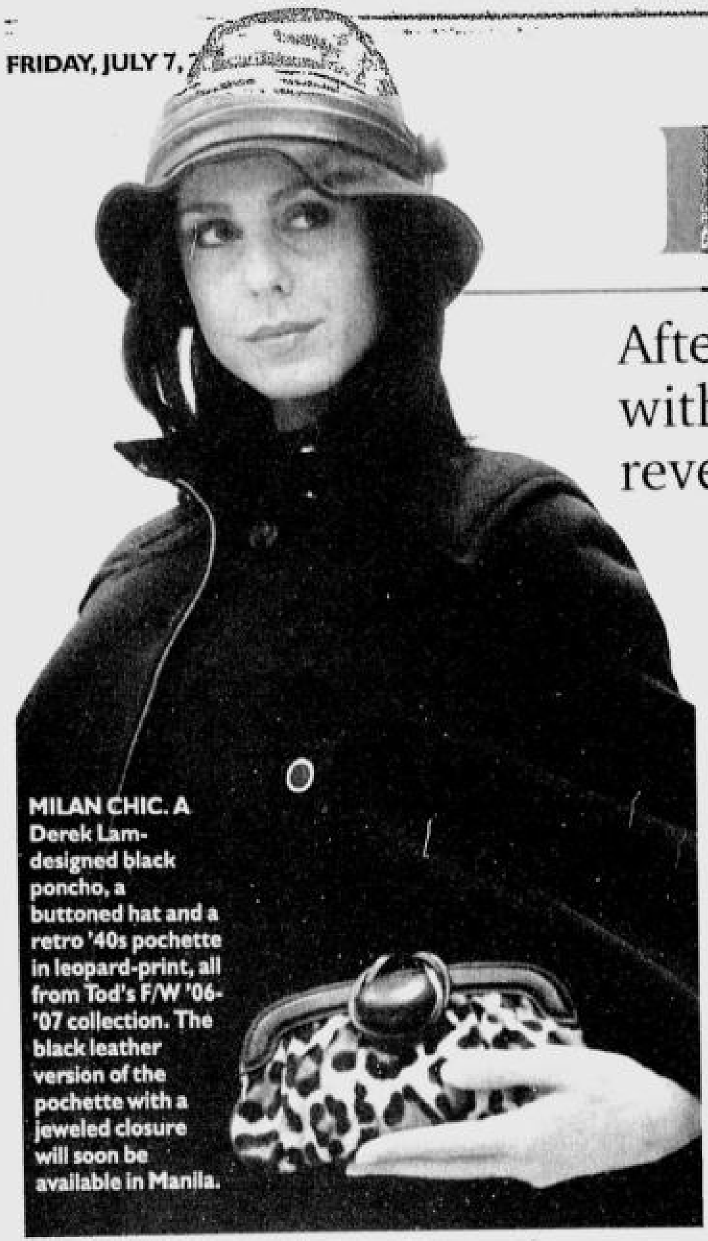
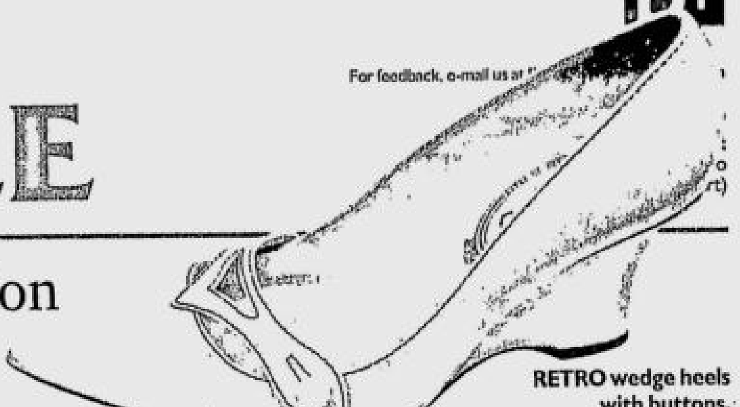


MILAN CHIC. A Derek Lam-designed black poncho, a buttoned hat and a retro '40s pochette in leopard-print, all from Tod's F/W '06-'07 collection. The black leather version of the pochette with a jeweled closure will soon be available in Manila.



RETRO wedge heels with buttons, also comes in black

Back to its fashion roots

After its uncommon collaboration with Michael Roberts, Tod's reverts to what it does best

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

MEN'S belt bag

WOMEN'S coat, iPod case and the T bag, available in deep burgundy (above), chocolate and forest-green

THE MARLENE, also available in green

THE NEW pointed ballerina flats

AFTER CREATING A stir with its Michael Roberts collection for spring, it's back to classics for the Italian luxury leather-goods house, Tod's, as it presents a women's collection for fall-winter with references to the 1940s.

"The Michael Roberts collection did well, and they were really interesting for editorials," said Flora Lee of Tod's Hong Kong during the press preview held at the Tod's store in Greenbelt 4, Makati, on Monday. "But Tod's is known for leather, so we're going back to our roots."

Tod's move to collaborate with the American illustrator and fashion editor was prodded by the recent industry trend of artist-designed lines for fashion houses. Roberts recreated Tod's signature Gommino moccasins into racecar and speedboat prints that appeared in women's shoes and a bag.

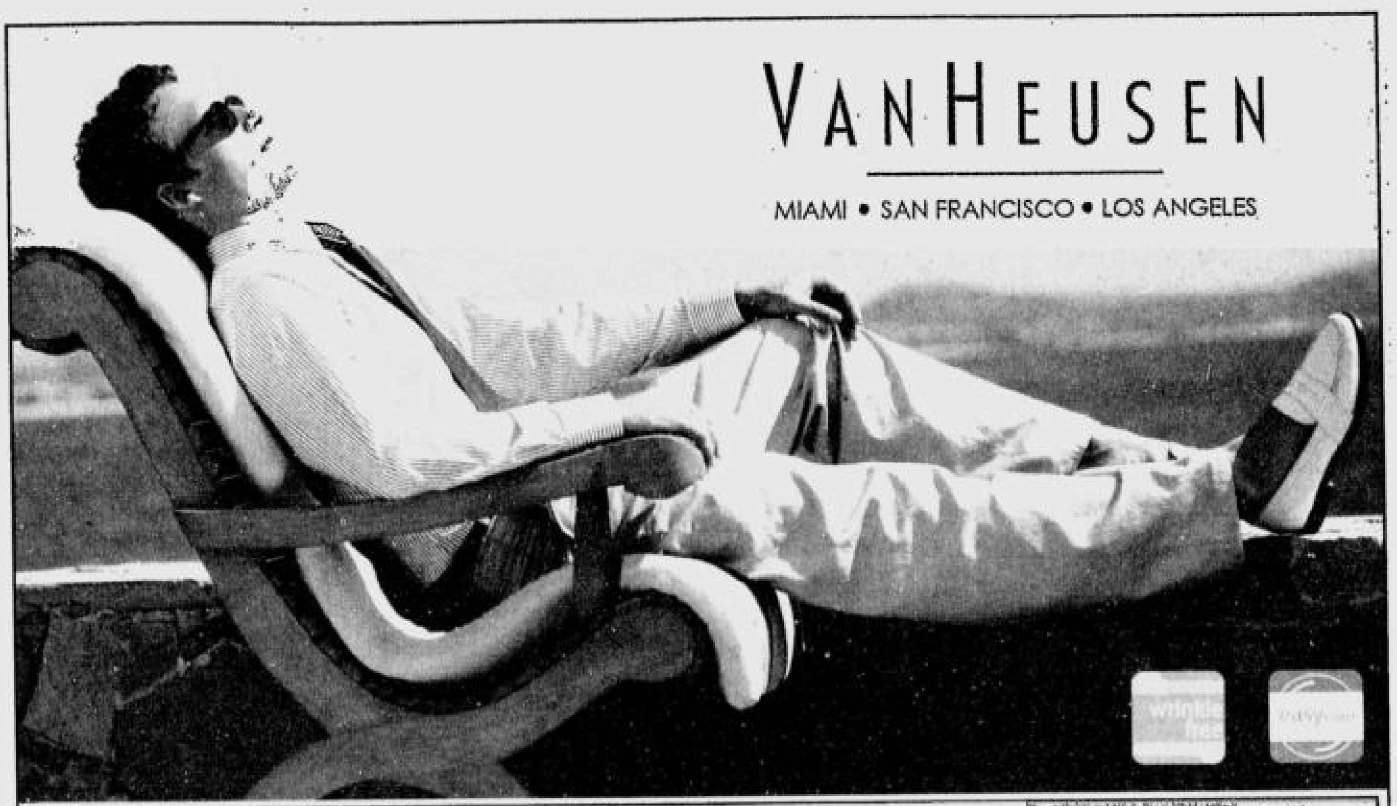
In Manila, the Roberts mocs did better compared to the bag, a drawstring canvas with rope detail, according to Aileen Arevalo, Tod's merchandising manager here. Apparently, practical Filipinos would rather get a leather bag for the same price.

Stores Specialists Inc., Tod's Philippine distributor, isn't likely to encounter that same issue in the coming season. The bags come either in soft nappa or is treated for a vintage look. Alligator and pony are also used, the latter notably in a leopard-print pochette, which however won't be available in Manila.

Biker bag

The key pieces include the Chopper, a remake of the biker bag. The handbag has distinct leather-ring handles, and a riveted and buckled front pocket; the more casual style, in vintage leather, has leather-ring shoulder straps and riveted hardware on the front pocket.

BACK/D5



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Also at: Landmark • Market-Market • Metro Gaisano Cebu • OUTLET STORES: SM Sta. Mesa • Robinsons Starmills • Riverbanks
Per DTI-NCR permit #1806, Series of 2006

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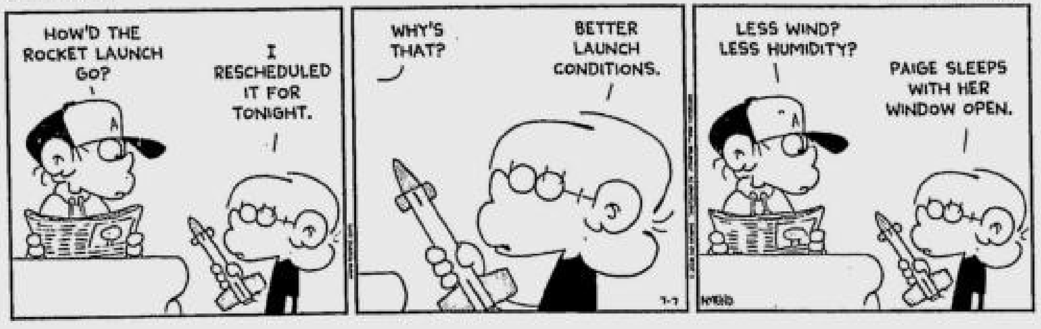
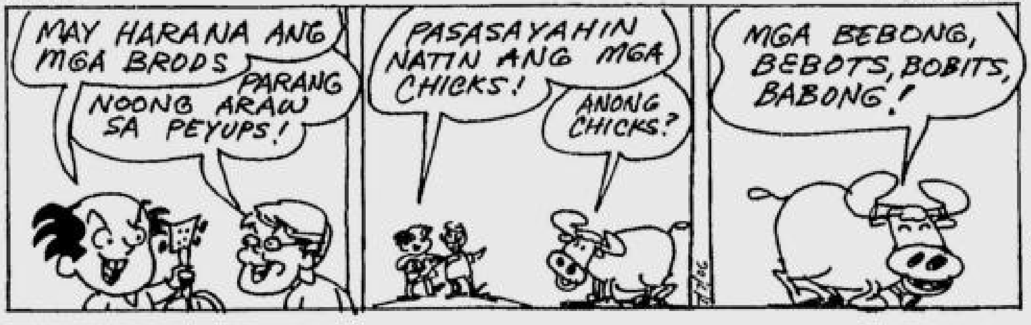
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HOW'D THE ROCKET LAUNCH GO?
I RESCHEDULED IT FOR TONIGHT.
WHY'S THAT?
BETTER LAUNCH CONDITIONS.
LESS WIND? LESS HUMIDITY?
PAIGE SLEEPS WITH HER WINDOW OPEN.

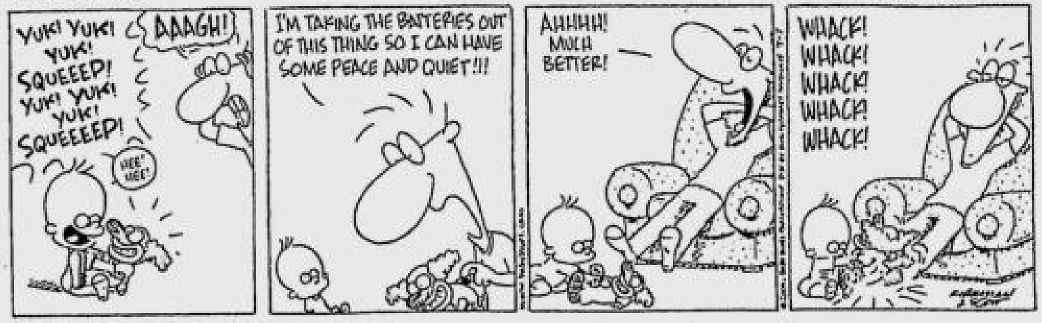
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAY HARANA ANG MGA BRODS
PARANG NOONG ARAW SA PEYUPS!
PASASAYAHIN NATIN ANG MGA CHICKS!
ANONG CHICKS?
MGA BEBONG, BEBOTS, BOBITS, BABONG!

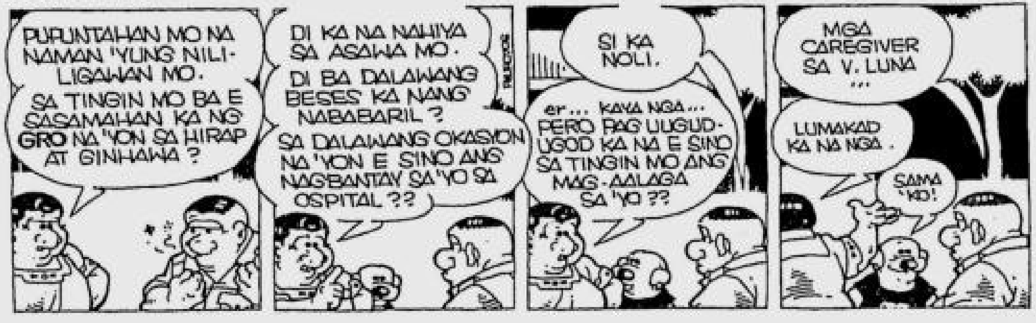
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YUK! YUK! YUK! SQUEEEP! YUK! YUK! YUK! SQUEEEEP!
AAAGH!
HEE! HEE!
I'M TAKING THE BATTERIES OUT OF THIS THING SO I CAN HAVE SOME PEACE AND QUIET!!!
AHHHH! MUCH BETTER!
WHACK! WHACK! WHACK! WHACK! WHACK!

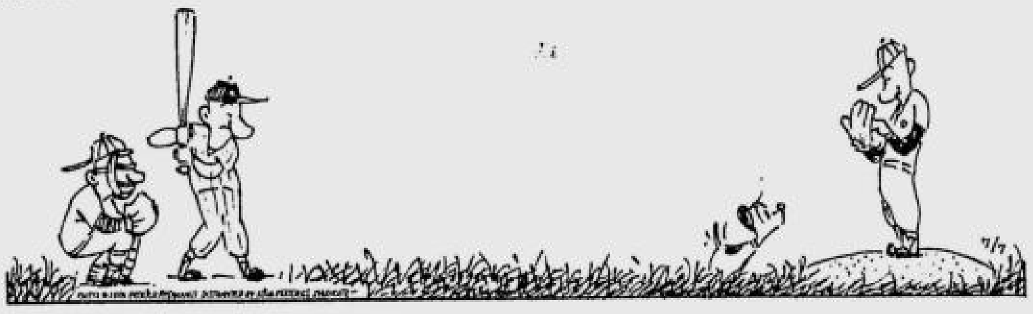
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PUPUNTAHAN MO NA NAMAN 'YUNG NILI-LIGAWAN MO. SA TINGIN MO BA E SASAMAHAN KA NG GRO NA 'YON SA HIRAP AT GINHAWA?
DI KA NA NAHIYA SA ASAWA MO. DI BA DALAWANG BESES KA NANG NABABARIL? SA DALAWANG OKASYON NA 'YON E SINO ANG NAGBANTAY SA 'YO SA OSPITAL??
SI KA NOLI.
er... KAYA NGA... PERO PAG UUGUD-UGOD KA NA E SINO SA TINGIN MO ANG MAG-AALAGA SA 'YO??
MGA CAREGIVER SA V. LUNA ...
LUMAKAD KA NA NGA.
SAMA 'KO!

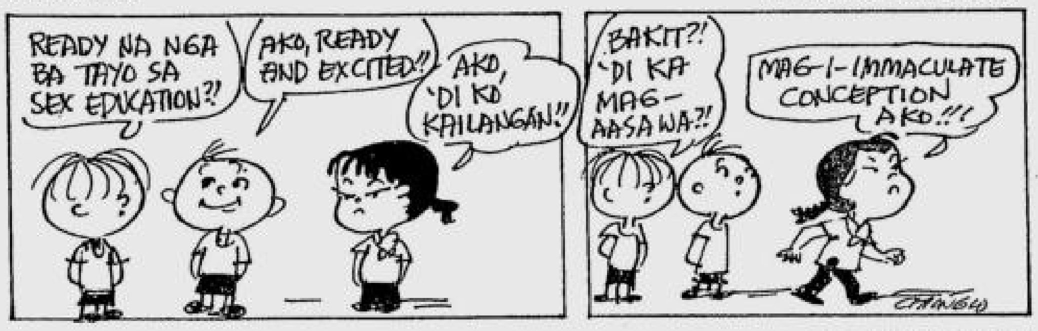
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



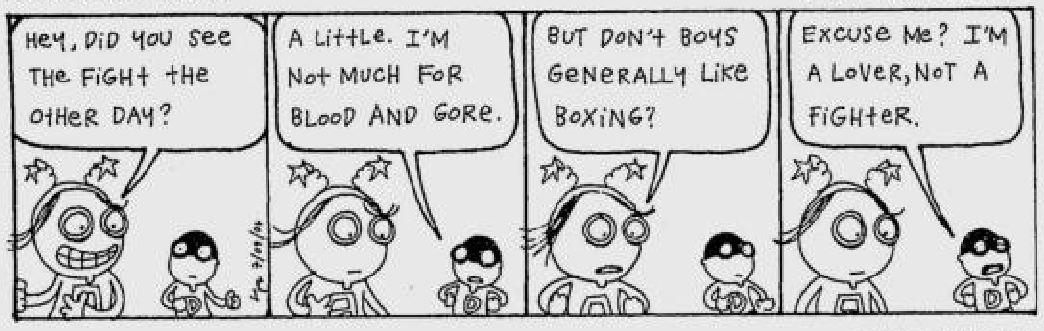
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


READY NA NGA BA TAYO SA SEX EDUCATION?!
AKO, READY AND EXCITED!!
AKO, 'DI KO KAILANGAN!!
BAKIT?! 'DI KA MAG-AASAWA?!
MAG-I-IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AKO.!!!

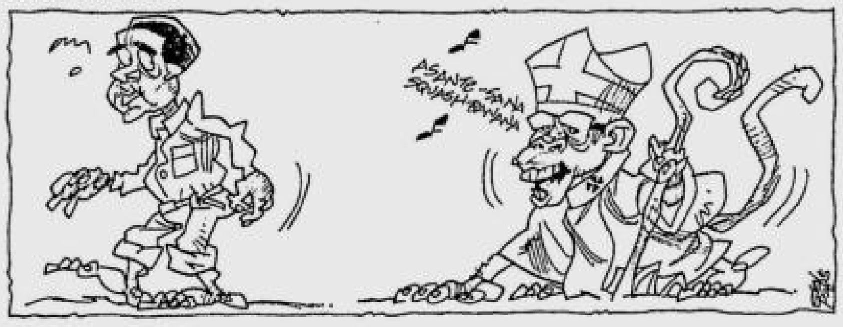
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, DiD you see The FiGht the other Day?
A Little. I'M Not MUCH FoR BLooD AND Gore.
BUT DON'T BoyS GeNeRALLy Like BoxiNG?
Excuse Me? I'M A LoveR, NoT A FiGhteR.

DIVINE COMEDY

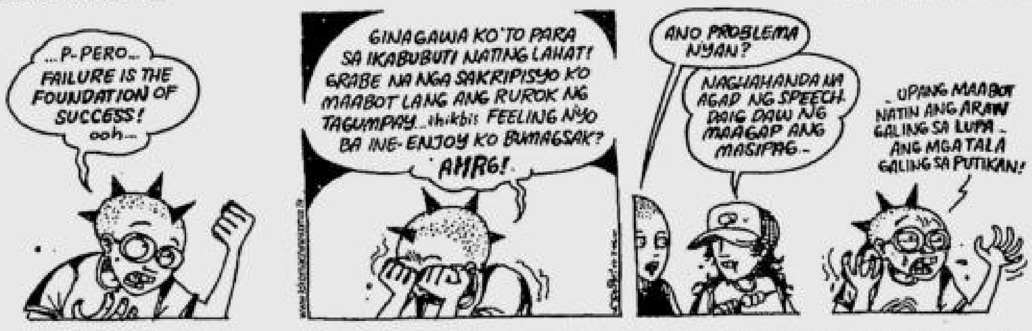
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ASANTE-SANA SQUASH-BANANA

THE PRIMATE OF UGANDA

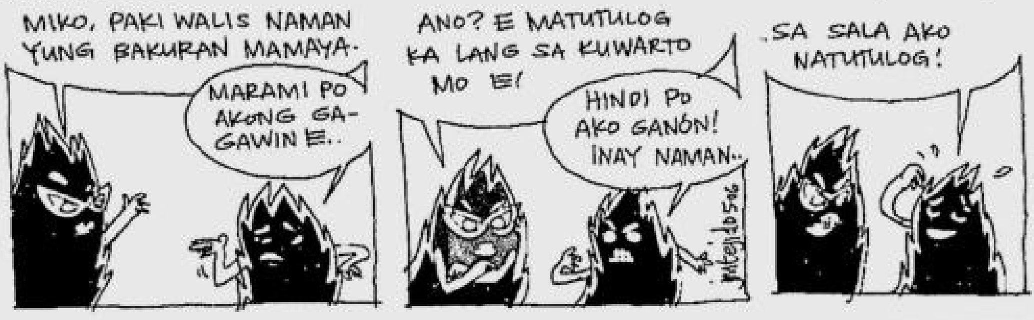
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


...P-PERO... FAILURE IS THE FOUNDATION OF SUCCESS! ooh...
GINAGAWA KO 'TO PARA SA IKABUBUTI NATING LAHAT! GRABE NA NGA SAKRIPISYO KO MAABOT LANG ANG RUROK NG TAGUMPAY...ihikbi! FEELING N'YO BA INE-ENJOY KO BUMAGSAK?
AHRG!
ANO PROBLEMA NYAN?
NAGHAHANDA NA AGAD NG SPEECH. DAIG DAW NG MAAGAP ANG MASIPAG...
...UPANG MAABOT NATIN ANG ARAW GALING SA LUPA... ANG MGA TALA GALING SA PUTIKAN!

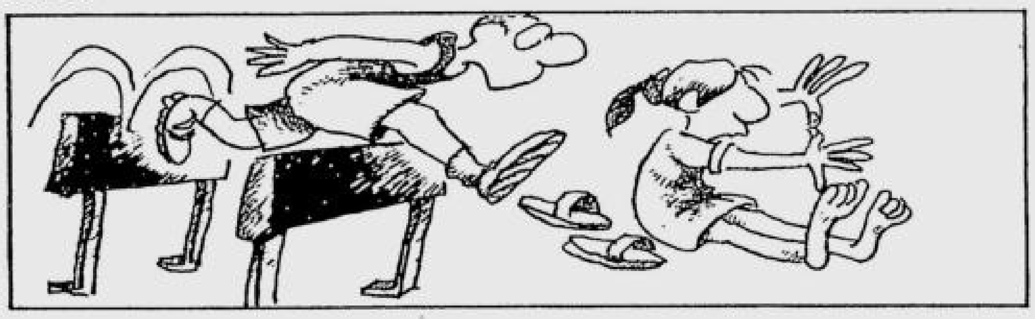
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MIKO, PAKI WALIS NAMAN YUNG BAKURAN MAMAYA.
MARAMI PO AKONG GA-GAWIN E..
ANO? E MATUTULOG KA LANG SA KUWARTO MO E!
HINDI PO AKO GANÓN! INAY NAMAN..
.SA SALA AKO NATUTULOG!

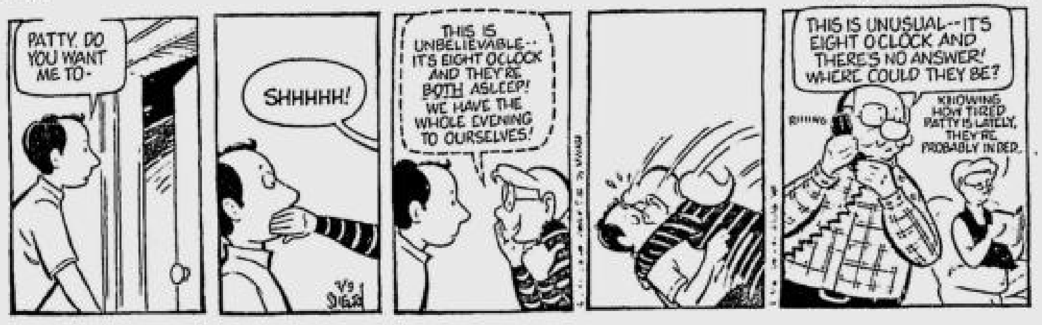
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


PATTY, DO YOU WANT ME TO-
SHHHHH!
THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE--IT'S EIGHT O'CLOCK AND THEY'RE BOTH ASLEEP! WE HAVE THE WHOLE EVENING TO OURSELVES!
THIS IS UNUSUAL--IT'S EIGHT O'CLOCK AND THERE'S NO ANSWER! WHERE COULD THEY BE?
RIIING
KNOWING HOW TIRED PATTY IS LATELY, THEY'RE PROBABLY IN BED.

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14					■	15				■	16			
17					18					■	19			
■	■	■	20				■	21		22				
23	24	25	■	26			27				■	28		
29			■	30				■	31		32		■	■
33		34		■	35			36	■	37			38	39
40				■	41				42	■	43			
44				45	■	46				■	47			
■	■	48			49	■	50			51	■	52		
53	54		■	55		56					■	57		
58			59				■	60			61	■	■	■
62				■	63		64					65	66	67
68				■	69				■	70				
71				■	72				■	73				

By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY
7/7/06

ACROSS
1 Actress Sally
6 Be in harmony
10 Urge on
14 Arm bones
15 Perry's creator
16 Jared of "Panic Room"
17 Organic highway sign?
19 Fan add-on?
20 Carries a tune wordlessly
21 Beer grouping
23 Sawbones' org.
26 Go back in
28 Notes of scales
29 Fanatic fan
30 Irish singer
31 Rough file
33 Seize
35 Pebbles' pet
37 __ for the taking
40 Singer McCann
41 Stairway parts
43 Pronto letters
44 Funny Jack of Hollywood
46 Blues singer James
47 SNL Comic Hartman
48 Tim or Winifred
50 Soy food
52 Actor Wallach
53 __-mo
55 Justine or Jason
57 Alphabet trio
58 Winter weather mass
60 Therefore
62 Pakistani language
63 Flog with a flower?
68 Writer Harte
69 Kuwait's ruler
70 Come together
71 Ethereal
72 Cosby series
73 Prohibit, legally

DOWN
1 Hairy coat
2 Worldwide workers' grp.
3 "Dune" composer Brian
4 Lattice strip
5 Unassertive
6 One from Trenton
7 Bother
8 Hallowed
9 Stranger
10 Open-handed whack
11 Florist in toreador pants?
12 New York city
13 Hard mineral matter
18 Corrects
22 Checkup pic
23 __-Saxon
24 Roman senate
25 Share in the ownership of a flower?
27 Actress Fabray
32 Detergent
34 Scott of "Charles in Charge"
36 Eye-tester's profession
38 Pool-table sides
39 Rive
42 Trip in the bush
45 Exile isle
49 Taiwan capital
51 Remove adhesive
53 Kind of diver
54 Peter of "Casablanca"
56 Removes fat
59 Import tax
61 Possesses
64 Small drink
65 Box-office smash
66 Figure skater Midori
67 Get-up-and-go

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

U	R	L	S	■	A	M	O	K	■	O	M	E	N	S
S	E	A	T	■	G	A	P	E	■	N	O	N	E	T
I	F	Y	O	U	O	B	E	Y	■	A	S	T	E	R
A	T	O	L	L	■	E	D	S	E	L	■	A	D	A
■	■	V	E	N	A	L	■	■	V	E	R	I	L	Y
A	C	E	■	A	L	L	T	H	E	R	U	L	E	S
P	U	R	S	E	S	■	H	A	R	T	S	■	■	■
E	R	S	T	■	■	T	E	N	■	■	S	H	U	T
■	■	■	O	S	I	E	R	■	S	P	O	O	N	S
Y	O	U	W	I	L	L	M	I	S	S	■	R	A	P
U	P	S	E	T	S	■	■	S	A	Y	E	R	■	■
C	I	F	■	C	A	S	I	O	■	C	L	I	M	E
C	A	N	D	O	■	A	L	L	T	H	E	F	U	N
A	T	E	A	M	■	K	I	D	S	■	N	I	S	I
S	E	T	H	S	■	E	E	E	E	■	A	C	E	D

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7/7/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're extremely creative! You have a keenly sensitive imagination. Perhaps this is why your life has so many unpredictable events occurring along the way. In your mid-teens, you become much more dramatic, because that is when you start to appreciate who you are. Work hard in the year ahead. Your rewards are close at hand!
Birthdate of: Doc Severinsen, bandleader; Ringo Starr, musician; Robert Heinlein, author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might find that the resources of others are more readily available to you now. Yay! Inheritances, money back from the government and even the earnings of close friends and partners might benefit you now.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Confusion about partnerships could be settled now. Close friends will be more supportive. It's a busy time, but you're enjoying some popularity

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Although this entire year favors your work and employment scene, naturally there will be ups and downs, valleys and plateaus. You're on the upswing again. Expect more improvements!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Increasing opportunities for parties, vacations and even romance will come your way now. This part of your chart gets a lovely boost beginning today. Enjoy!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): It's a good year for home, family and real estate. Starting today, family activities take a positive and even more joyful turn. You can definitely count your blessings.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your day-to-day activities will start to pick up with a positive lift now. In fact, this positive influence will last for the rest of the year. In general, it makes you feel more optimistic and grateful for who you are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your chance of earning more money definitely increases as of today. This is a profitable year for you. Better jobs, increased earnings and new, beautiful possessions will bless you

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today Jupiter once again resumes its forward movement in your sign. This makes everything in your life take on a more positive glow. It's good to be alive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Different things in your life right now contribute to a more inspired sense of spirituality. You have a greater appreciation of how your life touches the lives of others, and vice versa.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Friends, groups and members organizations are keen to see you now. Enjoy this time of increased popularity—it lasts for the rest of the year!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your reputation and your good name among your peers are very strong right now. Be courageous about pursuing new opportunities on your life path

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Travel plans once again look promising. Ditto for plans connected with education or further training connected to your career. You feel optimistic once again!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku
by Dave Green

		3	6		9			
						1		
	4	1				6		2
2				6				7
				5				
8				4				9
9		5				7	8	
		6						
			5		7	4		

Difficulty Level ★★★★
7/07

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	1	8	6	3	2	5	4	7
6	3	7	1	5	4	2	9	8
4	5	2	8	9	7	3	1	6
3	9	5	2	1	6	7	8	4
7	4	1	3	8	5	9	6	2
8	2	6	7	4	9	1	5	3
1	6	9	4	7	3	8	2	5
2	8	3	5	6	1	4	7	9
5	7	4	9	2	8	6	3	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

Two-week 'gold rush'

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL IN MUNTINLUPA CITY IS holding a "gold rush", a two-week sale of gems and jewelry, July 15-30. "Shimmer" features a jewelry fashion show, photo exhibit and mall-wide jewelry sale. The fashion show, "Jewels on the Catwalk," will be staged July 16 at the Carousel Court. Festival Supermall is at the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Call 8503514.

REUNION. St. Scholastica's College High School REC (Religion Extension Class) will celebrate its 20th year on July 21, 5-9 p.m., at the Sr. Kuniberta Hall (formerly the school gym). All REC alumnae from 1986-2006 are invited to attend "Bente Sa Ciento: The REC Grand Reunion." Call Yas Rodriguez at 5247686 local 370 or 0917-9164725 on or before July 12. For details, join the REC yahoogroup by sending an empty message to ssc_rec-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

GOINGS ON

FASHION CONCERT. Catch Bum Equipment's fashion concert tonight at 6, at the SM City Open Carpark featuring ace endorser Danilo Barrios, LJ Reyes, together with its newest image models Iwa Moto, Rico Barreira and Glaiza de Castro. Titled "Bum Rocks," the show will also have 6cyclemind as the show's guest band.

INSTANT REBATES. Metrobank Credit Card's 'M Shopping promo offers a one-percent rebate on purchases at Rustan's Department Store. The promo is ongoing until July 15. The rebate will automatically be deducted by the cashier from the total amount to be paid. This means instant savings with no forms to fill out or points to accumulate and no hidden charges. So use your Metrobank credit card every time you shop at Rustan's Department Store and enjoy instant rebates.

SALE. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall holds Rainy Days Sale July 14-16. Big bargains and discounts await shoppers. Merchandise includes shirts, shoes, bags, sportswear, accessories, houseware items, rain gear and toys from over 300 boutiques and specialty stores mallwide and anchor stores Sta. Lucia East Department Store, Supermarkets, Home Gallery and Planet Toys.

MOTORCYCLE EXHIBIT. Visit 2006 Motorcycle Modifiers, Riders and Dealers' Show presented by Sonic Boom Events at Sta. Lucia Entertainment Center July 13-15. Exhibit features latest motorcycle, trade and retail booths, acoustic performances, racing and mechanic seminars plus Motorcycle Display Competition. Meanwhile, Sta. Lucia East Department Store and Planet Toys hold Scrappin' Challenge for scrapbook enthusiasts July 16. For a minimum single-purchase receipt of P100 of any All About Scrapbooking, Hallmark or Bic products or any purchase of toys, infant or maternity items from the department store or Planet Toys, get a chance to win P4,000 worth of prizes.

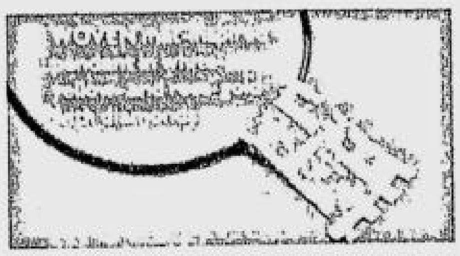
PROMO. You can win P1 million instantly or in a grand raffle with Citibank's Match & Win promotion, ongoing until July 31. Just use your Citibank credit card to pay for purchases. Every credit card purchase worth at least P1,000 has two ways to win. You can get instant cash when your Citibank credit-card number matches the transaction approval code on your sales slip. The code is also entered in the grand raffle draw. To win instant cash, three to six digits in the transaction approval code should match numbers in your Citibank credit card. Prizes range from P100 to P1 million. For the grand raffle, send by text message the last 10 digits of your Citibank credit card number and the six-digit approval code on your sales slip to 29768. Grand prize is P1 million. Match & Win is open to all Citibank principal and supplementary cardholders.

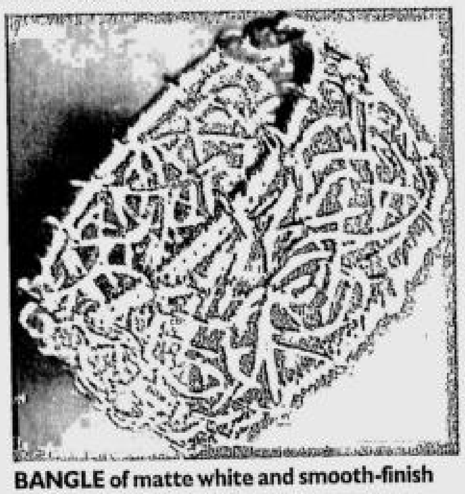
JOB FAIR. Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) presents job fair on July 22-23 at Sanctuario de San Antonio parish Social Hall, Forbes Park, Makati. Call 8250804, 8253482, 0920-8766505 and 0917-8557137.

WRITING COMPETITION. In celebration of the Buwan ng Wika this August, Diwa is presenting "Gawad Tambuli 2006: Pambansang Patimpalak sa Malikhaing Pagsulat," an annual creative writing competition open to all subscribers of Kaluskos and Tambuli, Diwa's Filipino magazines for grade-school and high-school students. This year's theme is on Filipino values and identity. The competition is divided into two major categories: Patimpalak sa Pagsulat ng Tula for grade-school students; and Patimpalak sa Pagsulat ng Maikling Kwento for high-school students. Call 8938501 loc. 241, or visit www.diwa.ph for details. Deadline for submission of entries is on Aug.15.

TRADE FAIR. The recently concluded 5th Agraryo Trade Fair capped its highly successful five-day exhibit of the country's best agricultural products with the awarding of the most innovative home-grown products in various categories. The Lamcapanay Sala Set from Zamboanga del Sur which was the Best Non-Food Product under the furniture category. The 5th Agraryo Trade Fair was organized by the Department of Agrarian Reform with the support of the Philippine Fruits and Vegetable Industries Inc.

TRAVEL PHOTO WORKSHOP. Air Miles Management is presenting the first Travel Photo Workshop Series 2006 August-November this year. The series will be conducted by renowned international travel photographer George Tapan. Monthly photo workshops lasting nine to 14 days will bring participants to different international destinations like Canada, Turkey, Greece, Egypt, and Cambodia/Vietnam. Workshop fee will cover, among others, certificate of attendance, presentations, digital group sessions, accommodations, meals, airfare, tours. Each workshop will have only 25 participants. Call 8994834 or 8976556 (telefax).





BANGLE of matte white and smooth-finish yellow gold in a crazy vine-weave pattern

Jewelry design contest launched

THE SECOND JEWELLERY DESIGN COMPETITION by the Guild of Philippine Jewellers Inc. was launched recently at the Peninsula Hotel.

"The competition marks the Guild's continuous commitment to the advancement and global recognition of the Philippine fine jewelry industry, by discovering new talents in craftsmanship and design of precious personal ornaments," said Jay Camus, chair of the design competition and director of the Guild of Philippine Jewellers, Inc.

Camus said this year's competition draws its inspiration from Philippine nature and challenges jewelry artists to craft pieces that highlight the beauty of the country.

Supported by PhilExport, Pearl2, Discovery Suites, Jewelmer International, BPI Foundation, Sterling Gifts, Inc., New Life Jewelry and Hoseki Pearl, the contest is open to students, professionals, individuals, companies and organizations based in the Philippines.

Fifteen finalists will be selected. The competition is divided into three categories: all precious metals, all precious metals and gemstones, and all precious metals and nontraditional components.

Criteria are originality, interpretation of the theme and aesthetic and visual impact.

Deadline for entries is Aug. 28. Call 7281722 or 7281726, e-mail gpjewels@globelines.com.ph, log on to www.guildofphilippinejewellersinc.com, or visit Unit 1103, Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower, Chino Roces, Makati City.

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on selected items

For every P500 purchase
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get a chance to win one of
5 American Home
2 Door (AR[illegible]NFX)
283.29 cu. dm. [illegible]
Refrigerators

Plus
Buy a Home Essentials small beanbag for only P429.75 or a beanbag with back rest worth P[illegible]99.75 for a minimum P500 purchase of Home Essentials items

Promo is exclusive to RDS branches in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Metro East and Festival Mall Alabang

Purchase a fold-a-mattress for only P499.75 for a minimum P500 purchase from the Homelines Department

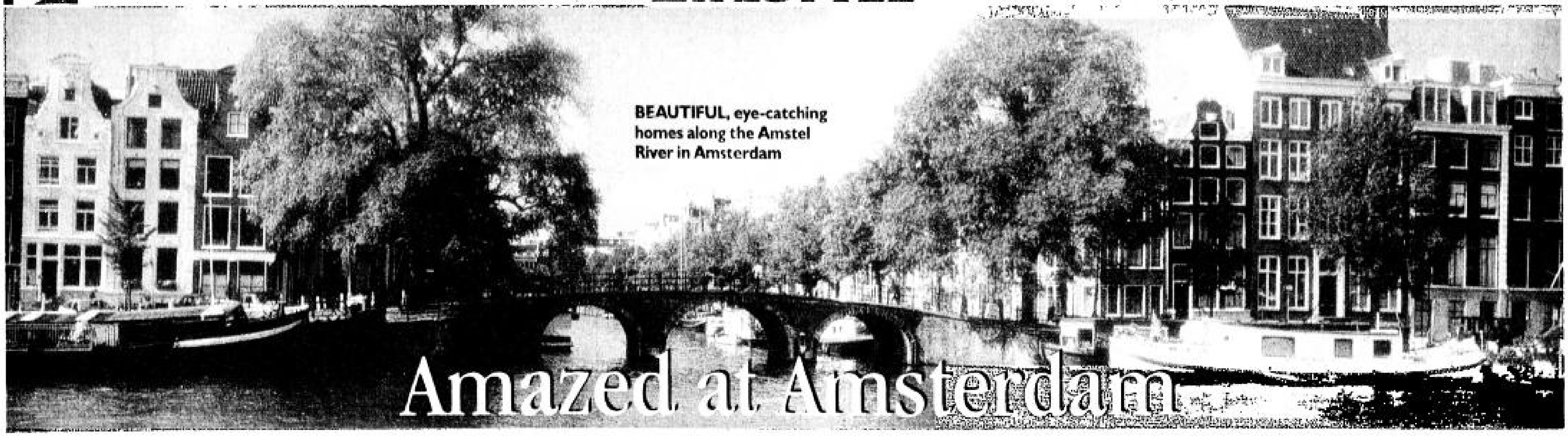
Pgi Praline's Group Inc. • St. Louise • Home Essentials • HANABISHI • CANOPY

Ultima • OLK • Nipp[illegible]nware • C[illegible] Int'l • Kyowa • American Home • Do[illegible]andle • Rosas Artcrafts • Galvez Metalcraft • Uno Vi[illegible]na • Dandisun

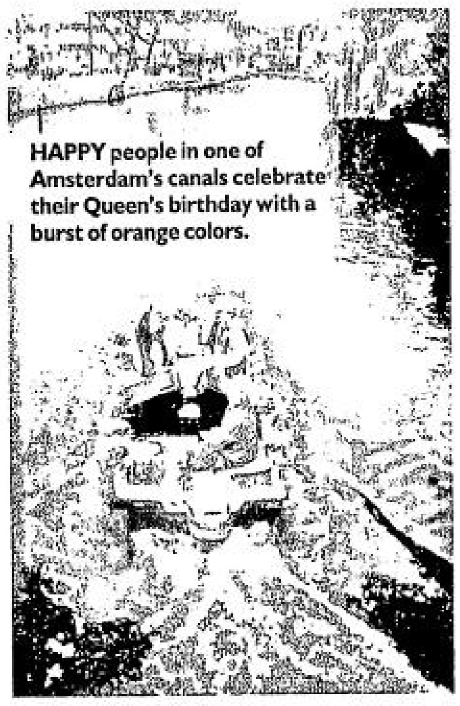
Deadline for submission of entries: July 31, 2006
Draw Date: Aug. 8, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3337 Series of 2006

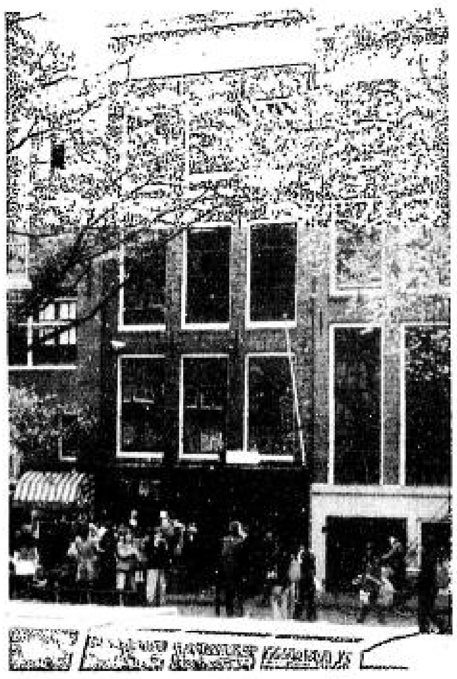
www.rds.com.ph
See poster mechanics for details

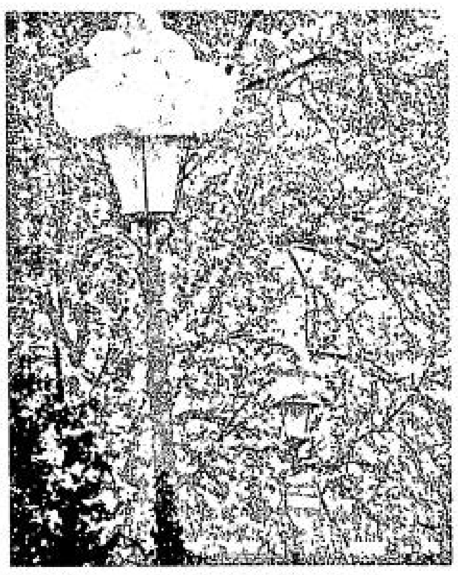
Robinsons Galleria Flagship Store
Robinsons Malls | Waltermart Malls | Nepo Malls | Tutuban Center | Metropolis Star Alabang | Festival Mall Alabang

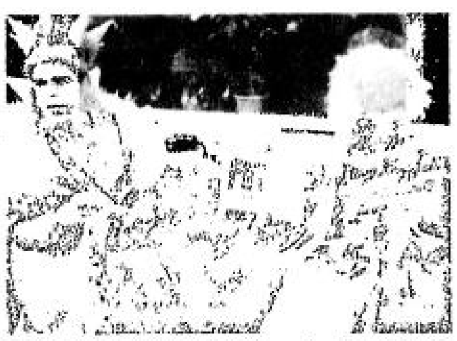

BEAUTIFUL, eye-catching homes along the Amstel River in Amsterdam

Amazed at Amsterdam


HAPPY people in one of Amsterdam's canals celebrate their Queen's birthday with a burst of orange colors.


THE WORLD-FAMOUS house of Anne Frank. A must-see place in Amsterdam!


STREET lamps decorated with orange balloons in honor of the Queen's birthday


PUBLIC celebration and organized debauchery, all for the Queen

I'VE ALWAYS LIKED DAY FLIGHTS, SINCE it gives me that secure feeling of seeing the landscape of the country you're flying over. Just after a perfect nonstop 12-hour flight from Manille on board a Boeing 777 by that royal airline, KLM, we landed in one of the most gorgeous airports in the world—Schipol—in wonderful, beautiful Amsterdam, *palanggas*.

No sooner than you could bat an eyelash, we had unpacked our suitcases in our hotel for three days at the quaint NH Museum Quarter, a walk away from the city's bustling sections.

Ah, Amsterdam. Definitely one of my favorite cities in Europe. One would most likely fall in love here where the pace of life is relaxed, small enough to explore, an intriguing combination of the local and the international, and best of all, just everyone speaks good to fluent English.

Amsterdam is also a "thoughtful city," with a long-standing liberal tradition. (It has legalized prostitution and dope-smoking coffee shops, would you believe?) It also boasts of tons of great restaurants with some of the best Indonesian cuisine and eye-catching coffee shops.

There is not one Dutch I know who does not know how to bike. Learning to walk is followed by learning to bike. It's the Dutch's main form of transportation, or form of exercise and relaxation. No wonder they have such great-looking legs, *palanggas*. And no wonder, too, air-pollution is nonexistent here.

We started our tour with a visit of the Dam Square. Facing the square is the fabulous Royal Palace, built in the 17th century. A short walk away from the square is a fantastic cheese shop called Kass Winkel.

Our tour continued close to the Central Station where trains came from all over Europe, including an express one that takes you to and from the Schipol.

Along the canal are rows and rows of parking space for bicycles that are parked there by the train commuters and locals who work around the no-cars-allowed business and commercial areas. No wonder they don't have any traffic problems at all!

In the red-light district are narrow, winding streets. The houses have red lights and a show window; inside is a little room that has a bed and two chairs. Here, the "girls-for-pay" in all types of kinky outfits sit in front of the windows. If the curtains are close and the red light is shut, then you just have to wait for the customer ahead of you to leave the room,

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Next day, I insisted we all go to the famous American Hotel at the Leidseplein, for the best Dutch apple pie.

The American is where most of the city's hip crowd mixes up the city's chi-chi pack for lunch and coffee in its gorgeous Art Nouveau-designed dining room.

A stone's throw away is one of the largest and most popular of the city's parks, the Voldel Park. During summer, the park regularly hosts free concerts and art performances in its specially designed open-air theater.

Rembrandt museum

From there, you can go to the Rijks Museum and get the thrill of seeing one of the world's most comprehensive collections of 17th-century Dutch paintings, including loads of Rembrandt's gorgeous works. This year, the museum is celebrating 400 years of Rembrandt, dahlings.

You can check out Holland's favorite beer at the Heineken Brewery, which is just across the canal from our hotel.

One must also see the Anne Frankhuis. This is easily the most visited sight where the young Jewish girl Anne Frank wrote her famous diary while hiding with her family from the Germans during World War II. The family spent two years in hiding till they were betrayed, arrested and sent to a concentration camp in Germany.

Out of the eight in the *famille*, only her father, Otto Frank, survived. Sadly, Anne and her sister died of typhus just one week before the Germans surrendered. It is said that while Anne was trapped in her house, she loved to hear the bells of the Westekerk, which was just a block away from her house.

TESSA Prieto-Valdes, Joanne Ramirez, Baron Travel senior VP and COO Joy Abrogar, and *moi* carry our bags full of cheese in front of the renowned Dam Square in Amsterdam.

From yummies to airport

After having our fill of herring, the popular fish which is usually eaten raw, cheese from old Amsterdam, excellent old goat cheese, yum-yummy Poffertjes, a rich waffle with heavy sweet syrup and, *naturellement*, Dutch milk, so rich and good, we were driven off to the fab Schipol airport to check out its fantastic facilities.

We were welcomed by top KLM stewardess, attractive **Marianne Rooth-Pieters**, who became our guide.

By the KLM check-in area were blue facilities, actually the new, ultra-modern self-check-in machines. All you need are a passport and a credit card. And if you have a frequent-flyer card or KLM Flying Blue Card, punch it in to get air-mile credits. Fast and so easy! No need to line up at all.

Next stop was the Crew Center where all the flight stewards meet and chill out before their flights. "KLM now has around 8,000 flight crew members," said Marianne R.P. There is also another section where only the "pilots and co-pilots hang out before a flight."

We were also briefed on the airport's high-tech Security Scan: a passenger steps into this machine, which looks like a capsule from "Back to the Futures"; he raises both arms up in the air, so that he can be scanned. At a distance, a highly trained security officer watches the scan on the screen. It detects not only metal objects but plastic and ceramic objects as well. Because the machine takes the place of bothersome body frisking and queuing, the system is more "customer-friendly," our guide told us.

We were then brought to KLM's fabulous Business and First-Class Crown Lounges where passengers can gorge on the spread on the buffet table, watch television, check e-mail, take a shower, and sleep in the Zen-like sleeping room.

Schiphol airport has served 45 million passengers and has been named "the gateway to Europe" and recently voted the "Best Airport in the World."

KLM flies nonstop to Europe from Manille daily.

Call 8871202, e-mail philippines@klm.com or visit www.klm.com.ph

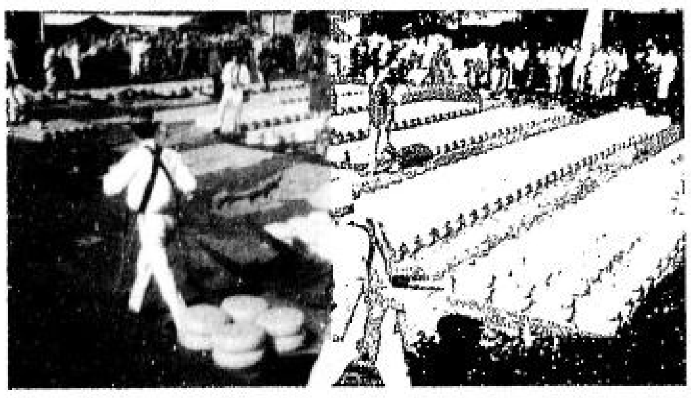
A MAZE OF BLUE. KLM's attractive Japanese stewardesses in blue with our very own Tessa Prieto-Valdes in her orange getup to celebrate the Queen's birthday

RAW HERRING. Tip your head back and swallow it Dutch-style.

50 Tulpen
€ 10.-
TULIPS everywhere

INGERBORG Van der Vlugt, the very efficient top flight crew member on our KLM flight back to Cosmo Manille

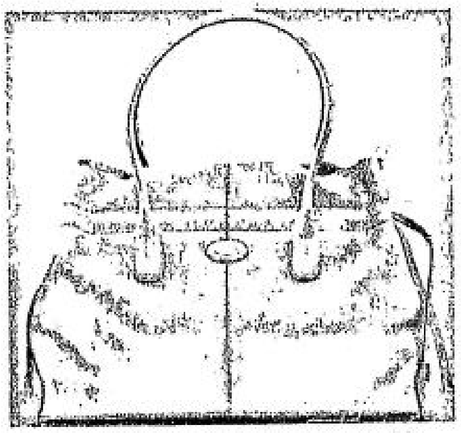
FRIES with sauce or saté peanut sauce


FANTASTIC cheeses of The Netherlands. The famous cheese market in Alkmaar, Holland

HOLLAND'S signature wooden shoes, known as clogs

THE BULLDO
90
THE RENOWNED Bulldog coffee shop where you can have the in-demand legalized spiked chocolate brownies

A VERSION of the Chopper, in terracotta



THE D BAG loved by Princess Diana will be available in burgundy and chocolate.

MEDIUM shopper in denim-blue vintage leather

LEATHER-AND-CASHMERE jacket and jeans from F/W apparel, suede hat with a ribbed trim, brown messenger bag and rubber-soled ankle-high Jazz shoe with elastic sides

Back to its fashion roots

From page D1

Marlene, named after Marlene Dietrich, harks back to the 1940s and has a retro envelop shape with a woven leather button closure and coiled leather shoulder strap. It also has a pochette version; some styles have jeweled button closures.

Tod's new shopper, also inspired by the biker, comes in vintage skin and has multiple pockets, its zipped top provided with a small monogrammed padlock. As usual, the brand latches on to its partiality for function with an update of its multiple-pocket T bag in rich shades of chocolate, burgundy, forest.

The pre-fall collection, available next month (the F/W line will be in stores September), also brings back the D bag, named after Princess Diana who favored the semi-structured drawstring satchel.

For shoes, the ballerina assumes a pointy tip with wavy sides and small-button details. It comes in suede. A dressier version has a patent-leather tip with a bow and rubber pebbles. The rubber pebbles also reappear in the new fringe-detailed patent pumps. A wedge-heeled style mimics the look of the buttoned ballerina, in patent leather.

The new men's shoes called Jazz have a sleek, urban silhouette. For the first time, Tod's also presents an all-black patent line for men that include the low-cut Jazz, a wing-tip and a classic Gommino. The driving mocs also appear in pony.

The boots collection would probably send footwear-crazy Filipinas drooling. They'll have to buy them overseas, however, as only one style—a stack-heeled ankle-cut patent with rubber-pebble detail—will be sold here, and only in black. Too hot for Manila weather, Arevalo said.

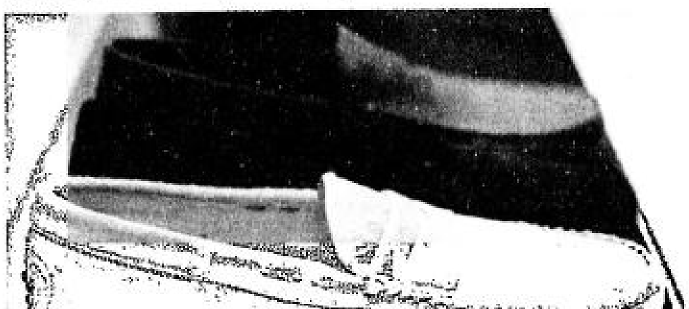
Some pieces from Derek Lam's collection for Tod's were also previewed for the Manila press. After a positive feedback for his limited-edition, seven-piece collection for spring—Tod's first apparel line—the American designer expanded the fall collection to 45 pieces. In Asia, the clothes are available only in Hong Kong and Tokyo.

TO-DIE-FOR metallic knee-highs, laced-up (above) or stack-heeled (below), but you'll have to find them in a Tod's store abroad.

INSTEP CLEAVAGE. This low-cut burgundy pair, in suede and patent leather combo, will be available here in black.

SHEARLING-TRIMMED leather bomber, pleated black chiffon mini, T bag in forest green and knee-high boots with buckle detail

MEN'S Jazz collection, in all-black patent leather



THE CLASSIC men's Gommino, in pony

Balancing life with help of superb herb

WITH ALL THE STRESS THAT ONE goes through every day, balance is what everybody needs for health and beauty. How to achieve that balance is the big question.

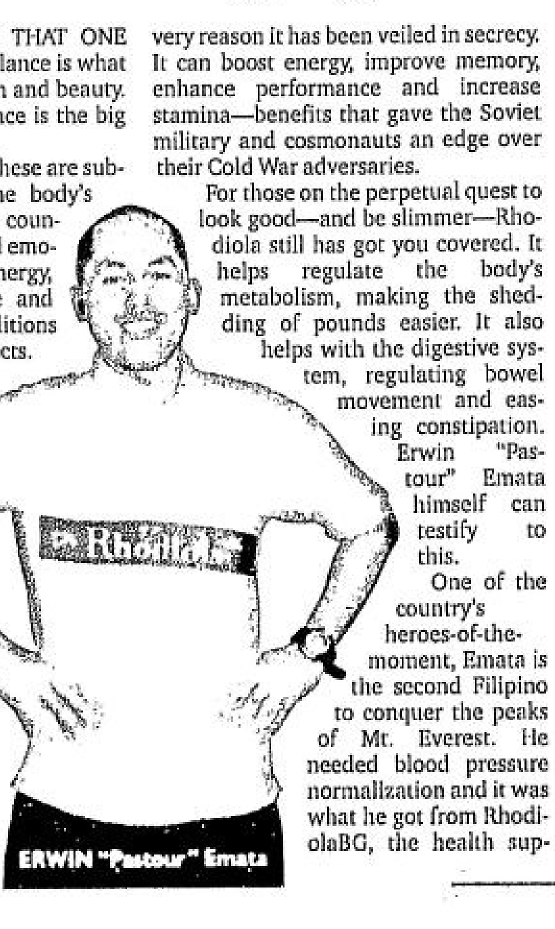
Enter the adaptogens. These are substances that adapt to the body's needs, meaning they can counteract physical, mental and emotional stress, increase energy, boost immune resistance and enhance other body conditions with minimal side effects. Among all the adaptogens, the one that stands out is Rhodiola rosea.

Though Rhodiola rosea may have been unheard of until a few years back, the Russians have been studying and using it since the 1960s. Even early century Vikings have been known to harness the herb's power. Rhodiola's effects are the very reason it has been veiled in secrecy. It can boost energy, improve memory, enhance performance and increase stamina—benefits that gave the Soviet military and cosmonauts an edge over their Cold War adversaries.

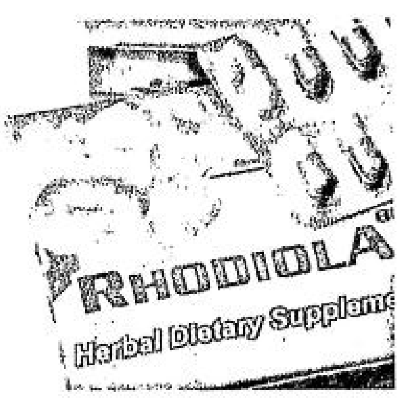
For those on the perpetual quest to look good—and be slimmer—Rhodiola still has got you covered. It helps regulate the body's metabolism, making the shedding of pounds easier. It also helps with the digestive system, regulating bowel movement and easing constipation.

Erwin "Pastour" Emata himself can testify to this.

One of the country's heroes-of-the-moment, Emata is the second Filipino to conquer the peaks of Mt. Everest. He needed blood pressure normalization and it was what he got from RhodiolaBG, the health supplement from BodyFarm.



ERWIN "Pastour" Emata



RhodiolaBG is made from pure Rhodiola rosea, enhanced with Green Tea and our very own Banaba. Each capsule helps balance your entire body system-replenishing what you lack and getting rid of what you don't need. Pastour also says that RhodiolaBG helped boost his endurance during the climb.

RhodiolaBG can also give more physical strength and endurance. In Soviet studies, 52 young men on Rhodiola had a 9 percent increase in their physical work capacity. The herb can also boost the body's immune system. Patients who took it with antibiotics healed faster. This means fewer chances of you getting sick and longer staying power on the badminton courts, golf course, or even the good old treadmill.

Rhodiola has also been known to ease depression. It elevates the brain's happy hormones-dopamine and serotonin. And amazingly, on the flip side, it can also help with cases of insomnia. A couple of caveats though—it isn't as effective on severe cases of depression, and it could increase mood swings in people with bipolar disorder.

Rhodiola rosea's amazing capabilities stem from its unique composition. It has 18 amino acids that are deemed necessary for normal body function, 21 trace elements, and vitamins, alkaloids and flavones. It also has high antioxidant properties. These properties increase the body's ability to absorb oxygen in the blood, resulting in delay or prevention of fatigue; headache relief; increased stamina and alertness; enhanced memory and mental capabilities; and even help with conditions such as cerebral thrombosis, arteriosclerosis, myocardial ischemia and angina pectoris.

RhodiolaBG is available at Mercury Drugstores and Watsons nationwide.

KRIS, BOY SHARE THEIR SECRET TO BEAUTIFUL, HEALTHY BODIES

Boy Abunda and Kris Aquino flaunt their slim bodies before the press.

These days, multi-awarded local queen and king of talk Kris Aquino and Boy Abunda are looking exceptionally great and healthy.

When asked about what keeps them in shape and healthy, Kris and Boy happily reveal the wonderful reason behind their fabulous form—Xändo Block and Burn tablets.

Xändo Block and Burn is a natural, clinically-proven, patented dietary supplement that helps people with modern, inactive lifestyle to lose and maintain weight safely and comfortably.

Developed by Nils Mortensen in Norway, Xändo has three active ingredients extracted from kidney beans, garcinia fruit and chicory roots that help users shed off extra pounds. It effectively reduces up to three times more weight by safely blocking carbohydrates, starch and sugar in the digestive tract and prevents excess carbs from converting into fat.

According to Mortensen, "What people do not know is that when they go to the grocery and they see the nutritional facts written on the label of a consumer product that says zero fat or zero carbohydrates, they are not aware that carbohydrates turn into sugar and sugar into fat."

Xändo partially blocks carbs from food before it even turns into fat to promote burning of stored, unwanted body fat.

Kris is quick to sing praises for Xändo. "The great thing about Xändo is that even if you don't have an active lifestyle, you can still reach your ideal weight. It lets me maintain my ideal weight easily even with fewer workouts. So now I look good and feel healthy."

When asked about how effective Xändo is, Boy willingly relates how he sought his doctor's advice before taking Xändo. "Whenever I have a runny nose, flu or high fever, I drink water. I am a water person and I am cautious with what I take. Water is cure for everything to me," says Boy. So when he was introduced to Xändo, he confesses that he was naturally hesitant at first, since he had not taken a slimming pill in his life. But when his physician gave him a go signal, Boy tried Xändo and now he is glad that he did.

In just over a month of Xändo, Boy has lost 10 pounds and he is still counting. Though he has not had problems with his weight and is happy with himself, Boy is proud that he is now down to a 33 inch waistline. "I am happy with the effects of Xändo on my weight loss. It feels great to be on size 33 again."

From his experience, Boy has proven that Xändo is as safe as it is effective. He hasn't experienced any side effect since he started using Xändo.

Kris, who has tried almost every weight loss pill in the market, adds that the amount of research that went into developing the product has convinced her to choose Xändo.

Xändo Block and Burn has been proven safe and effective by a European clinical testing entitled "A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo controlled Trial of a New Weight-reducing Agent of Natural Origin" conducted by Dr. Erling Thom in Norway and published in The Journal of International Medical Research.

Results of the study show that people who are using Xändo tablets lost up to three times more weight than diet alone and 85% of weight loss is body fat.

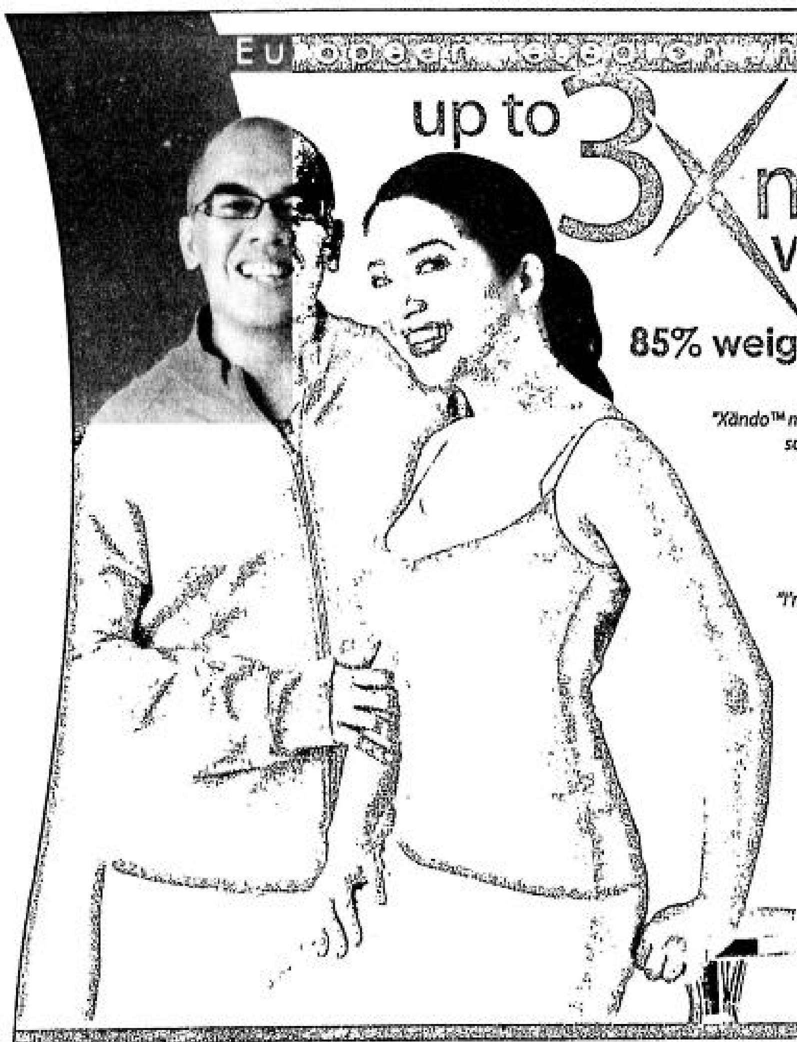
Aside from the positive results of the trial, Dr. Thom noted that what makes Xändo stand out from the rest is that it recognizes the power of natural human desire to eat it and doesn't try to deprive people from eating the food they love.

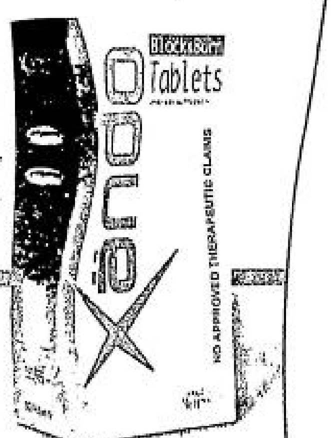
Xändo also does not contain caffeine and laxative that will leave users feeling uncomfortable. So Kris and Boy enjoy maintaining and losing weight minus the unwanted side effects such as feeling jittery and frequenting the toilet.

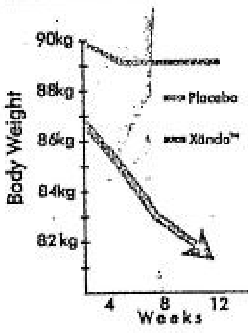
Kris and Boy take one to two Xändo Block and Burn tablets with a glassful of water before meals.

With work as grueling as theirs, Kris and Boy realize the need to pay attention to their health and they are well aware that health cannot be sacrificed for career. With Xändo, Kris and Boy need not worry about keeping in shape and being healthy.

Xändo is exclusively available at all Watsons outlets. For more information, please call 727-9999 or 0922-88-XANDO (92636).







up to 3X more weight loss*

85% weight loss is body fat*

"Xändo™ makes losing and maintaining weight so much easier. I love using Xändo™!"

Boy Abunda
Award-winning TV host / PR maven

"I'm glad I have Xändo™ to comfortably lose weight and keep me in shape."

Kris Aquino
Award-winning actress / TV host

Xändo™ is a natural, clinically-proven solution to Lifelong Weight Control.

A published clinical study shows that Xändo™ tablets together with a diet of 1200Kcal give significantly larger weight reduction than dieting alone.

Reference: E. Thom J Int Med Res 2000, 28:229-233.

- ✓ **Blocks** carbohydrates*
- ✓ **Blocks** starch*
- ✓ **Blocks** sugar*
- ✓ **Blocks** fat*

* Based on the study "A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Trial of a New Weight-reducing Agent of Natural Origin" conducted by Dr. Erling Thom in Norway, published in The Journal of International Medical Research 2000;28:229-233.

Not to be used by pregnant women. Breastfeeding mothers and persons with diabetes should consult their doctor first before using Xändo.

Xändo™
Block & Burn
Tablets

To know more about the product, call:
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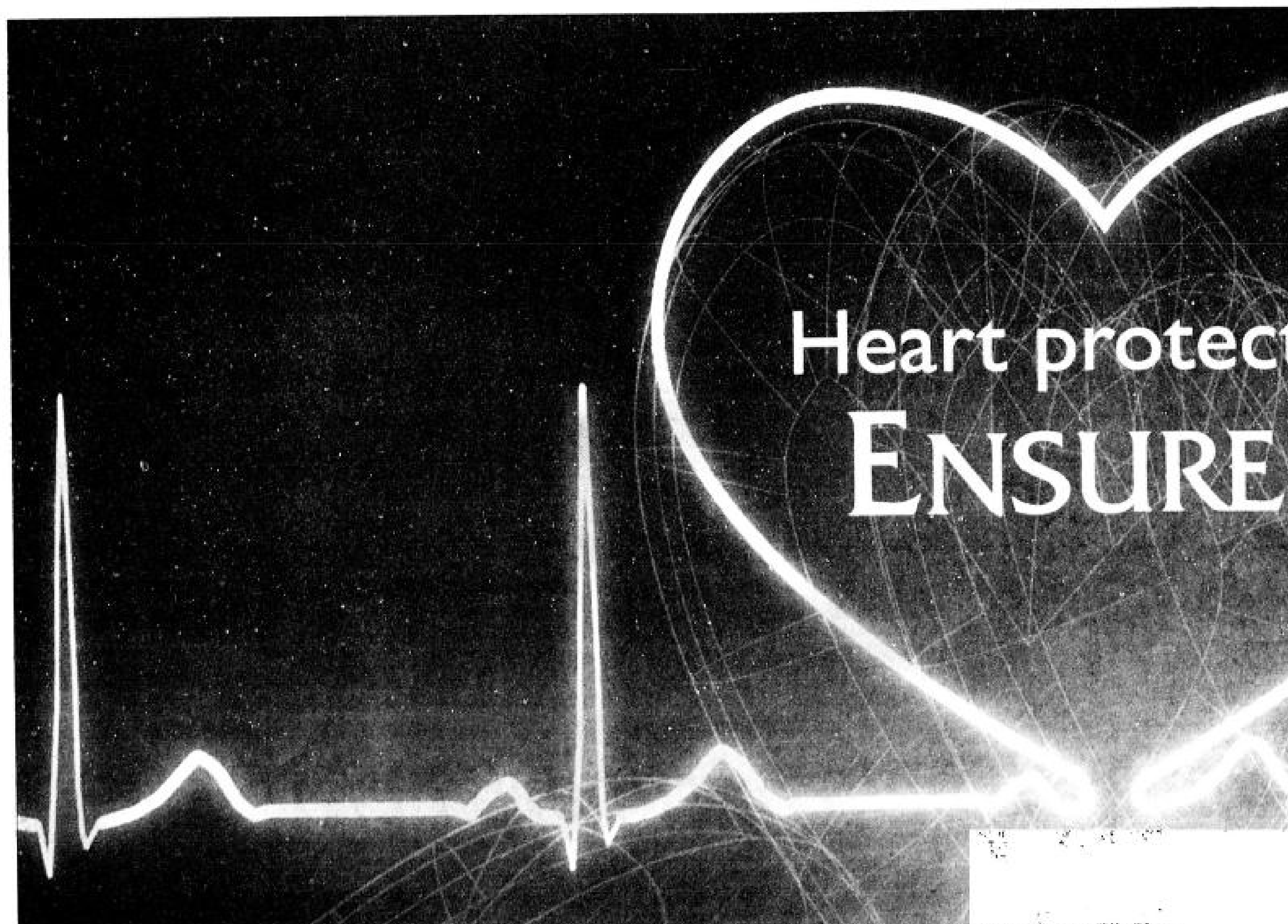
Available only at Watsons drugstores



HEART
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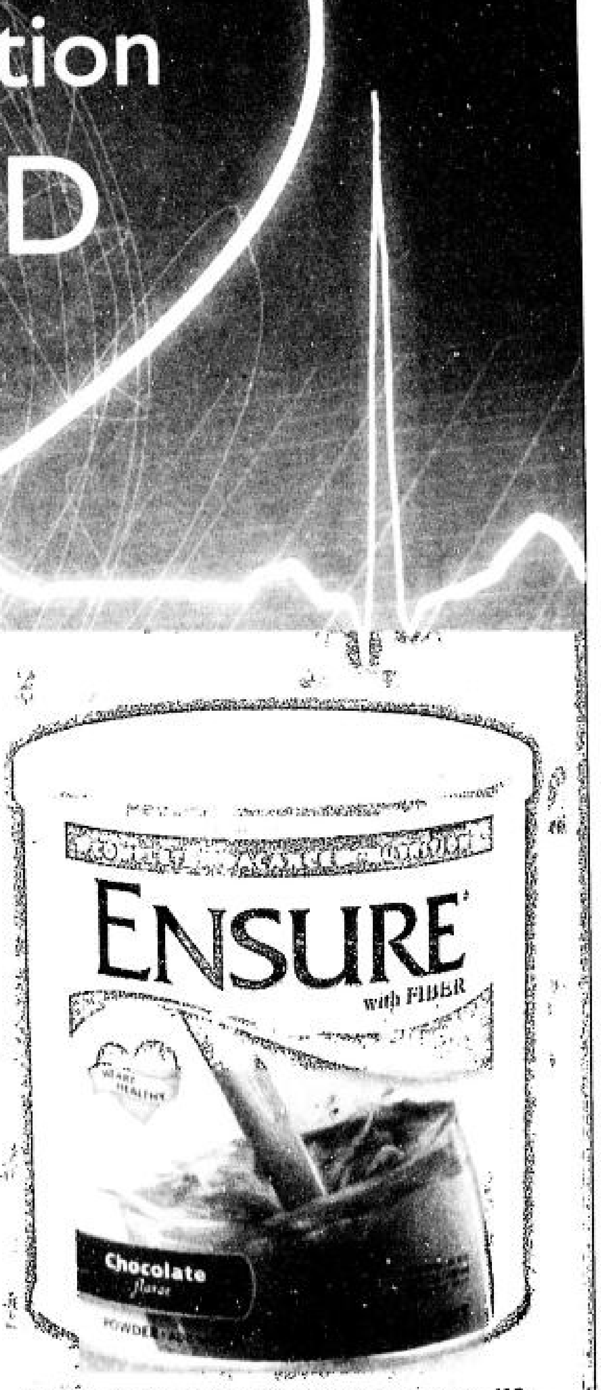

Recommended by 8 out of 10 doctors and meets standards of the American Heart Association and National Cholesterol Education Program

Your heart is the center of activity in your body. Every part of your system depends on it. If your heart is healthy, your entire body benefits. But if it's not, then your whole body suffers. Your heart is in charge of pumping life-giving blood to your entire body, providing nourishment and oxygen to all the cells in your tissues, organs, muscles and bones. The blood moves from the heart into your arteries, then into tiny tubes called capillaries, and finally into the veins that lead back to your heart.

Although your heart is a powerful organ, it can be damaged by disease and poor living habits like smoking, an unhealthy diet, lack of exercise and stress. All these may weaken your body and hamper your blood circulation.

Ensure helps fight off the harmful effects of free radicals caused by these unhealthy habits. Its unique Heart Defense System creates a shield around your heart to help protect you from an attack.

Combined with pro[illegible] it helps ensure no[illegible] your heart pumps [illegible] to the rest of your [illegible]

Ensure's other he[illegible]

Low cholestero[illegible] free from plaque [illegible] block the flow of [illegible]

Low sodium – [illegible] prevent swelling o[illegible]

Low saturated [illegible] blocking effects of [illegible] of harmful fatty [illegible]

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Scent seduction

There are hundreds of perfumes available out there, and finding the right fragrance can be tricky

SCENT IS A MAJOR player when it comes to trying to attract someone and feeling good about yourself. I love a lot of perfumes, but not all smell good on me. I guess it has something to do with body chemistry.

Recently, I was on the phone with my old editor Mia Fausto-Cruz and I told her I have reached an "I don't know what to write about" slump. I love beauty and catch myself talking about it during the day, but sometimes having to write about it is difficult because it then becomes work.

So Mia told me I should write like I was talking to her and not facing the computer. Genius!

There are hundreds of perfumes available out there, and finding the right fragrance can be tricky. The best way is to test it first on your skin and leave it on for a while. When it comes to scents, the nose knows best only when the fragrance is already sprayed on you. It may smell good from the bottle, but it may not when you're wearing it.

This is something I have to follow religiously because I have fallen victim to liking how something smells from the bottle and even when used by friends, but then smells different when I finally use it. This is because we all have different body chemistries, and apparently mine doesn't complement a lot of scents. I don't smell bad, I swear, but some scents make me.

When hunting for perfume, I've noticed that when I try on similar scents, after a while my nose gets numb. However, trying on different types is less fatiguing. In one press launch where we had to do a lot of sniffing, there were coffee beans available for us to smell in between scents to revive our sense of smell, and they worked!

The next time I go out to buy perfume, I promise to have coffee beans on hand or maybe even just Nescafé coffee in a little case. I may look foolish, but I will be confident I won't hate the scent I'd be bringing home.

Perfumes are expensive, so it is important to be a smart shopper. I suggest you try the coffee beans approach, too. If a lot of people do it, then it would look normal, right?

My scent of the month is Gap Dream. I love it so much I want to make sure I smell of it every time. In fact I am a victim of over-spraying, which is not good. One time the people in the car I was riding in all started coughing because I had sprayed on too much perfume. They had to roll down the window for fresh air, and I think if they could have left me at Ayala Avenue for a while, they would have.

So for all scent lovers like me, I think there should be a rule to keep in mind. Don't over-spray, and don't spray on your scent in enclosed areas.

More perfume tips:

- When choosing a fragrance for others, stick to classic scents. A brand that's been in the market long is obviously less risky then new fragrances. Also, consider the recipient's age and personality.
- The ideal storage condition for fragrances would be room temperature. Never place them under direct sunlight, which may cause oxidation.
- A change of color in the scent, or when you detect a sour smell when you open it, means your perfume is deteriorating. Throw it away.
- Apply perfume directly on your pulse points. And layering (applying the same scent in different forms) is the best way to make the fragrance last the whole day.

E-mail the author at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

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THE INVASION HAS BEGUN!

Team Listerine, including stage actress/ VJ Karel Marquez minutes before the invasion, finalizing battle plans.

Captain Listerine and Lt. Lisa reporting to field stations RX 93.1, WAVE 89.1, JAM 88.3 and 99.5 RT:

Empowering the citizens of Pacific Star Building, Makati with Listerine, the weapon of choice.

Citizens from LKG Tower, Makati sign up to join the mission to a 99.9% clean-mouth feeling.

The new Mission to Mouth recruits at GT Tower, Makati with pro basketball star Vince Hizon.

LISTERINE MISSION TO MOUTH

ON WITH THE MISSION

Citizens, germs have invaded our mouths! And they are determined to destroy our lives with bad breath, plaque and gingivitis.

For the next 3 months, man's greatest effort to liberate the mouth ensues. Watch out for Team Listerine, as they go to offices all over the metro and hand out the weapon of choice in order to eliminate 99.9% of these foul, merciless monsters.

Budget-friendly beauty

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

WE CAN THANK THAILAND FOR many things—Pad Thai, Thai massages, Chatuchak market and now, beauty that is friendly on the pocket.

Sheene (the last E isn't silent), Thailand's leading beauty brand, is now in the Philippines.

Since its launch 15 years ago, Sheene has become a market leader in Thailand, setting trends in terms of color and beauty advancement. Bearing the seal of Thailand Best, which guarantees quality, the brand is displayed in more than 200 stores and is also available through direct-selling in Thailand.

ICC, the company behind the brand, has decided to take Sheene to the world. Its first stop: the Philippines. Cambodia and Myanmar are next on the list.

Sheene's Achara Pricha, who visited Manila, said, "Thai skin is very similar to the skin type of Filipinas. Sheene has a lot of products to offer them, no matter what their skincare and cosmetics needs are."

And she's not kidding. Right now, there are over a hundred Sheene products to choose from in the country, and there's more coming.

"Our ranges can cover all kinds of skin. Whether you have a problem with dryness, with oil or pimples, we have products that can help," said Pricha.

Sheene's powder products are very popular in Thailand, selling about 100,000 pieces of each kind every month. It's no big surprise, since the brand has all kinds of powder for all kinds of people with all kinds of skin. Preteen, two-toned, perfect powder, perfect powder cake, with SPF, with moisture, natural, glow, loose and colored—there's guaranteed to be a Sheene powder to suit your needs.

The people behind Sheene put a lot of focus on research and development, thus the emphasis on quality. Five years ago, they released their Oil-Free line which has become very successful. Sheene now also offers oil-free eye shadow, blush, foundation, powder, facial wash and more.

The brand also recommends vitamin-enriched products like the vitamin C whitening line, which has everything from cleanser and lotion to day cream and night cream.

Pricha is proud of Sheene's mascara line, too. "We have mascara that can make your eyelashes appear longer and thicker, we have the Super Curl mascara which comes with a brush that's angled differently, and we also have the Sheene Mascara which comes in a smaller package and is handy so you can take it wherever you go."

Sheene's bath products include the Spa Cream Soap (P189.75), which comes in three variants—refreshing blue, energizing orange and romantic pink.

Lipstick lovers will be pleased to know that aside from being smooth and easy to apply, Sheene's lip products smell and taste good.

Aggressive marketing

There's no such thing as too young or too old for Sheene, said Pricha. While girls as young as 13 are attracted to its candy-colored lip products, more mature women can enjoy its anti-aging benefits.

Sheene's aggressive marketing techniques (it's known for its TV commercials, magazine leaflets and promo items in Thailand) are already being mirrored here in the Philippines. The brand has been holding samplings every weekend in different malls like Gateway, SM Sta. Mesa, SM North Edsa and SM San Lazaro, where interested customers can seek the help of beauty advisers and sales personnel in choosing the right Sheene products for them. Sheene also offers gift items like cute little bags and mobile phone pouches with its promos.

The response has been very favorable. Right now, the best-sellers include the Oil Free & UV Protection SPF 15 Pressed Powder (P198), Jujub Kiss Lip Gloss which comes in seven colors (P68 each), Q10 Body Lotion (P189.75), Shimmery Juicy Lipstick (P269.75), Natural Shine Lipstick (P189.75) and She Star 3-in-1 Lipstick (P189.75).

"We're glad Filipinas are very open-minded when it comes to trying new brands," said Pricha.

Sheene fans in the Philippines still have a lot to look forward to, as new products will come in every two months. Filipinas are set to enjoy the benefits of Sheene's Acne Cream, which promises to dry pimples and help blemishes fade in just hours. And in August, Sheene will launch its Jean line, a denim-theme makeup collection.

"Sheene is for the girl that shines," said Pricha.

And it's good to know one can shine without putting a dent in the pocket. Sheene offers true value for money, with its most expensive product being sold for less than P700.

In these hard times, your quest for beauty doesn't have to drain your bank account.

Sheene is currently available at selected Watsons branches around the city.

Philippines, say hello to Thailand's Sheene

SHEENE skin care

THE THAI makeup brand's cosmetics line

Sun-kissed glamour

IT IS EASY GLAMOUR THIS SEAson at The Body Shop. While in the last season we saw saturated colors contrasted with clean whites, now we see the emergence of fresh, spirited tones contrasted with soft, tranquil shades for a look that is both pretty and individualistic.

The new collection gives a taste of tropical beach parties and fresh, sunny days, providing a cool, individualistic look with the merest hint of quenching color.

Sun Domes (P1,195). Fabulous faces this summer are flushed with a subtle glow thanks to the totally innovative new Sun Domes. The shade palette houses three shimmering shades in an innovative, beautiful laser etched design; a base of bronzing powder with raised domes of illuminating and blush shades to light up the face.

Shimmer Smudgers (P595). The line's signature shades are Pink Blossom, Summer Blue Sky, Aqua Dewdrop and Silver Edelweiss.

New Shimmer Smudgers offer an eye-catching new way to wear color. These innovative powder eye color offer excellent color pay-off, coming in four, fresh, fabulous catwalk hues, enriched with loads of light reflective pearls. What's more, it comes with a wand applicator.

Hi-Shine Lip Treatment (P550). This comes Fresh Peach and Wild Rose Pink. The two new Hi-Shine Lip Treatments create a look that is fresh and fruity yet utterly feminine and luscious.

Vitamin C Plus Time Release Capsules (P1,100/28 capsules). Vitamin C Plus Time Release Capsules contain a time-release system, delivering Vitamin C to the skin as required. Vitamin C Plus Time Release Capsules contains Vitamin C, Blackcurrant Oil and Brazil Nut Oil to moisturize skin.

The Summer 2006 Colour Trend collection is available in all The Body Shop stores. The Body Shop has more than 2,000 stores in over 50 markets worldwide.

PIA Guanio with her dramatic brown skin

NICOLE Hernandez

Whitening products for men

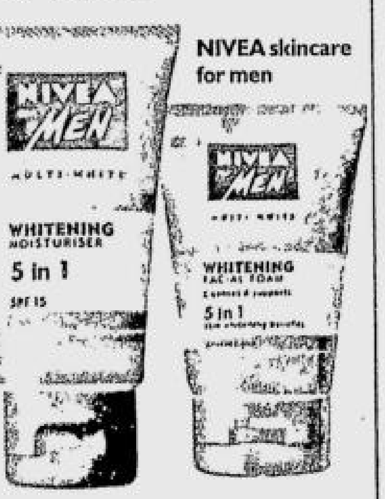
NIVEA, THE SKINCARE EXpert, has launched Nivea for Men Whitening, the first advanced whitening range for the masculine skin.

The new product has been specially formulated by the Nivea research center in Germany using advanced technology. It brightens men's complexion, lightens discolorations, reduces blemishes, restores suppleness, prevents the formation of premature fine lines.

Nivea for Men Whitening consists of two products: Nivea for Men Whitening Facial Foam, a mild cleansing foam to help brighten the skin while ridding it of impurities for a whiter, healthier appearance; and Nivea for Men Whitening Moisturizer SPF 20, the first moisturizer with whitening properties specially developed for the masculine skin.

Nivea for Men Whitening is dermatologically tested to be gentle and non-irritating for all skin types. When used regularly for four weeks, men's skin will have a noticeably whiter, and smoother glow.

Nivea for Men is now available in all leading department stores, supermarkets, and health and beauty stores nationwide.



NIVEA skincare for men

Redefining flawless skin

RECOGNIZING THAT FLAWLESS skin goes beyond mere whitening, Rosanna Tan, president of An Apple A Day Inc., developed a line of soaps that would bring out the clean, clear, healthy skin: Flawless Herbal Papaya Soap.

"We've become so used to equating fair skin with beauty that we sometimes don't realize that it's only part of the complete image. Fair skin also has to be clean, clear and healthy before it can be called flawless," Tan said.

Binibining Pilipinas-International 2001 Maricarl Tolosa-Cabel radiates charm and good health. A top 10 finalist in this year's Mrs World Pageant, the 25-year-old Filipina beauty finds time to pursue a promising modeling career while being a devoted wife and mom.

Maricarl believes that flawless skin comes from good health, or more specifically, wellness. "I believe that our skin reflects everything we subject our bodies and minds to," explains Maricarl.

For Maricarl, flawless skin is a natural consequence of a healthy lifestyle and being able to put the proper perspective on life.

Maricarl likewise believes that you don't necessarily have to spend a lot of money on skincare if you follow a healthy lifestyle. "Of course, it doesn't hurt to choose skincare products that are suited to you and help bring out what's under the surface," she said.

Clean

Model Don Mendoza knows the importance of flawless skin. Known for his outstanding physique, the 21-year-old model who stands 6'1" didn't pay much attention to skin care until he found himself regularly appearing on catwalks for some of the best-known designers in the country.

"In my line of work, it can sometimes feel like I'm being inspected under a microscope so naturally, I have to look my best and that starts with clean skin," says Don.

Like most guys his age, Don leads a very active lifestyle that includes sports (basketball), jogging and regular workouts at the gym. He also prefers to keep skin care as simple as possible. That's why aside from being sure to get eight hours of sleep every night and regular doses of vitamin E, his regular skincare regimen involves keeping his skin clean and blemish-free.

Active lifestyles also require products that have antibacterial properties such as those found with products containing tea tree oil (a key component of Flawless Extreme Herbal Papaya Soap for Men).

For Don, flawless skin has less to do with whitening than keeping skin tones even. That's why it's particularly important to use products that can be used regularly without irritating the skin.

At 25, Jen Arcilla is often mistaken for a much younger woman. This bubbly marketing executive credits her youthful looks to good genes and clear skin.

"I'm the type of person who's better off not using too much makeup because it can actually make me look older than I really am," she said. "I realized early on that I had pretty good skin so all I needed was to maintain it and make sure I didn't develop any zits," she said.

Jen said that people should look for products that are gentle and do not irritate the skin.

BB. PILIPINAS-International 2001 Maricarl Tolosa-Cabel

cut & keep

Natural nose job

Using makeup, you can attain your idealized nose, and it is all temporary and painless

Text and makeup by Barbi Chan.
Photos by Pat Dy

OUR NOSE IS THE CENTER OF our face, and its most prominent feature. Whether you have a "pug nose" (*pango*, to be blunt), an angular nose, a patrician nose or a small button nose, women by nature always find fault with their noses' shape and size.

That's why some resort to nose job or rhinoplasty. Because nose job is so common among men and women, many of us think it is safe or risk-free. Well, think again.

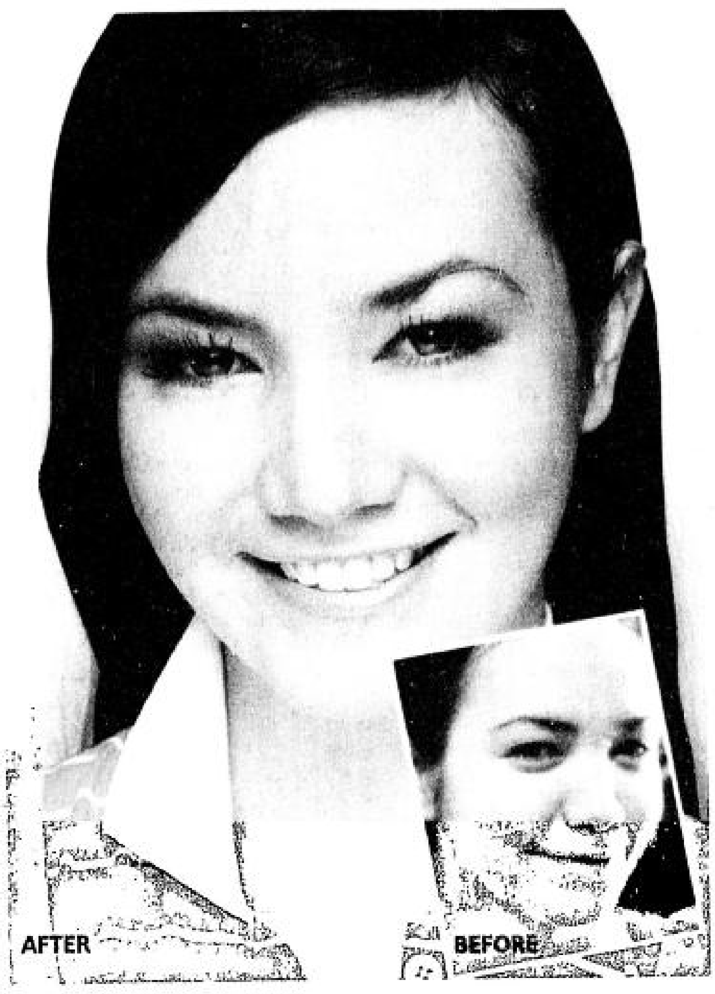
Swelling, bruising, bleeding, and, in some cases, a new nose that you are not happy with are some of the risks you have to face, not to mention the amount of money you would have spent.

So why take the risk when you can accomplish the same goal with makeup? Using makeup, you can attain your idealized nose. It is temporary and painless. If you don't like it, you can start again. I wish I could say the same thing with surgery.

You only need these six tools for a new nose:

1. Sponge
2. Concealer brush, small-edge contour if possible
3. Concealer
4. Foundation
5. Loose powder
6. Contouring shadow

We needed to straighten the nose of our model—deemphasize a bump and give her the illusion of a straight and proportionate nose.



1. Using a thin concealer flat brush, shade the sides of the nose with a cream foundation two tones darker than your skin color. When contouring a nose that has a bump or is crooked, look straight in the mirror. Begin the shading at the inner edge of the lashes and while working down toward the nostrils, adjust the shading area to create the illusion of a straight nose. Then, with a clean brush or sponge, blend out and soften any harsh contour lines.

2. Using a makeup sponge or powder puff, apply loose powder to set the foundation. When powdering around areas with contouring, pat gently with the loose powder. When using a powder puff, try to apply the powder in one circular motion by placing the puff down on one side and rotating it to the other. Then lift the puff straight off. This will prevent rubbing off the contouring.

Avoid making the dark shade too thick. This will only make your nose look thick or dirty. Remember to keep the thickness to the width of your pinkie nail.

As usual, the key here is to practice, practice, practice to get that perfect shape.

E-mail the author at bc_maybelline_ny@yahoo.com

Get purer, brighter skin

MARY KAY'S NEW PRODUCT, the PureWhite brightening system, aims to help a woman reveal her most radiant complexion by effectively targeting the major causes of skin darkening while lightening spots that have already appeared.

Created with Lucentrix technology, a patent-pending blend of ingredients exclusive to Mary Kay, PureWhite addresses unwanted skin pigmentation, which is a major concern that causes the skin to appear lifeless and blemished.

The product line has seven products—PureWhite Cleanser, PureWhite Softener, PureWhite Essence, PureWhite Day Lotion with Sunscreen SPF 15, PureWhite Night Cream, PureWhite Mask and PureWhite Liquid Foundation—all designed to aid in restoring the skin's natural balance and help even out skin tone and prevent further discoloration.

PureWhite delivers a Triple-Layer Action that restrains the process leading to discoloration by delivering active whitening ingredients to the precise skin layer where they are most needed. It works within the three major layers of the skin—stratum corneum (topmost layer), outer epidermis, inner dermis—to target the causes of dark spots. Skin is thus restored to its youthful clarity and protected from further damage.

With continued use, PureWhite will help one achieve an even-toned complexion with greater clarity, translucence and radiance.

Call 8596211 or visit www.marykay.com.ph

GET luminous with Mary Kay

Change your life, and other tips

THIS JULY, MARIE CLAIRE MAGAZINE encourages women to start making the changes they've always wanted to make.

Join six women as they decide to take the plunge with a makeover, Marie Claire-style. Find out if a seemingly hopeless pack rat can rise up to the challenge of clearing all her clutter in this month's Marie Claire Challenge. Learn the skills every woman should never leave home without, as Marie Claire gives you the lowdown on how to change a flat tire, how to be Miss Congeniality, and more.

And while life coaching has yet to catch on in the Philippines, three women share why it has helped them and how it might help you.

marie claire
PHILIPPINE EDITION
Mid-Year Makeover
EULA VALDEZ
Men Who Have Sex With Dolls
TRUE STORY
"I was raised by cannibals"
FASHION & BEAUTY
215
SEXY LOOKS
& HOW TO WEAR THEM

Marie Claire magazine has never been about staying stuck in your comfort zone. Cover girl Eula Valdez proves just that, not only with the countless roles she has played in show biz, but also with the various spins her life has taken. At age 38, she's at her prime and raring to take on more, as she shares her 13 secrets to living a happy life.

Grab your copy of the July issue of Marie Claire magazine, featuring Eula Valdez on the cover, now available in magazine stands and bookstores at P125 per copy.

Fight stretch marks
before they start.

Palmer's unique formula has been developed specifically to help you prevent stretch marks due to pregnancy. These occur when your skin loses its elasticity due to stretching beyond capacity. Palmer's Cocoa Butter Formula for Stretch Marks offers a unique blend of pure Cocoa Butter, Vitamin E, Collagen, Elastin and rich emollients that enables your skin to retain its natural elasticity, suppleness and moisture.

Use Palmer's Cocoa Butter Formula For Dry Itchy Skin, Massage Cream and Lotion once or twice a day from the beginning of pregnancy on areas most prone to stretch marks such as the stomach, breasts, upper thighs and hips.

To keep your skin soft as a baby's even after pregnancy, use Palmer's Cocoa Butter Formula Post Natal Firming Lotion and Nursing Cream. For your baby, you can also apply Palmer's Bottom Butter.

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Massage Cream for STRETCH MARKS
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Helps prevent and reduce stretch marks

Beat the ugly days

PMS can affect not only your moods and sense of well-being, but also the way you look. Here are some remedies

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

PRE-MENSTRUAL SYNDROME doesn't just make you feel down, it has the power to make you look lousy as well. It starts the week before your actual period, with uncomfortable symptoms that only go away on the second day of your cycle.

I will share with you my methods for beauty damage control so you don't have to take things sitting down. Some recommendations are not actual beauty products, but they have been road-tested by me and have my thumbs-up rating.

Water-weight gain leading to swollen legs, hips and lower abdominals making clothes tighter—Take a diuretic like Nature's Bounty Water Pill with Potassium (P360/50 tablets). If you take ordinary diuretics, make sure you buy potassium tablets and take them together. Diuretics alone will wash away the necessary minerals the body needs to stay balanced and energized. The pharmacist will be able to recommend the right diuretic and potassium tabs for you. This treatment not only brings down the swelling, but also the pain and discomfort associated with it.

I also apply leg gel like Phytomer, Estée Lauder Body Performance Legs, or Clarins Total Lift for stubborn cellulite control, starting from my ankles all the way to my abdomen. A side effect, though, even without the diuretic, is a constant need to urinate.

Constipation that causes dizziness and a huge stomach—The very week before my PMS, I can manage three days straight without going to the bathroom. I can't even begin to tell you how unhealthy that is, as visions of blood poisoning swim in my head. As it is, I am also prone to this on regular days, and I find relief via fiber supplements like Herbalife's Fiber tablets. Still, the week before the bad days, even the fiber tablets don't work for me, so I reach for laxatives which I take every other day, until the big day itself.

For mild to moderate cases, I recommend Dulcolax, Senokot or fiber supplements. For those who have great difficulty, try my favorite, Senokot Forte. Two tablets of Senokot Forte will give you a flat (even concave) stomach the next day. Apparently, it's the secret weapon of a lot of swimsuit models during live shows or photo shoots. Do not, however, take laxatives on a daily basis because you will become dependent on them and your system will stop working on its own. After a while, you may even be immune to the treatment. I use them only three or four days every month for PMS and, of course, on days when you really are suffering from actual constipation.

Greasy skin and acne caused by increase in oil production—As early as the 14th day from the first day of my last cycle, I switch to a skincare program for oilier skin that contains salicylic acid and stay with it until the fourth or fifth day of my cycle.

My two favorites are L'Oreal Pure Zone Deep Purifying gel cleanser, which also removes make-up, and PZ Pore Tightening and clarifying toner and Deep Control Anti Imperfection Moisturizer, which mattifies my skin, makes pores smaller, controls oil production and prevents future breakouts.

For those who have rough skin or lots of dead skin accumulated on the surface, replace L'Oreal's Deep Purifying gel wash with the Deep exfoliating gel wash.

The other tried-and-tested line is Clinique's three-step skincare program. Number 3 is for oily skin, number 4 is for very oily skin. The rule is to step up a number from your usual routine. Thus, if you are regularly a skin type 2 (normal/combination), move up to a 3. The good part about Clinique is that all you need to change would be the toner/lotion and not the rest of the skincare line. You might have to do away with the moisturizer for the time being or limit it to evenings only.

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Difficulty sleeping, causing you to be sluggish and cranky the next day—Dark under-eye circles and breakouts are the natural results of this problem. Melatonin 3-mg tablets will help you relax and fall asleep faster. Staying away from all caffeine during this time also helps. The caffeine list includes chocolates, tea (even green tea) and soda. If you have to drink something warm, drink chamomile tea instead, as this has a mild sedative effect. But not too much, though, because it also has a diuretic effect that would keep you up at night with frequent trips to the bathroom. In some cases, Melatonin doesn't help much, so you may have to see a doctor who could prescribe stronger sleeping aids.

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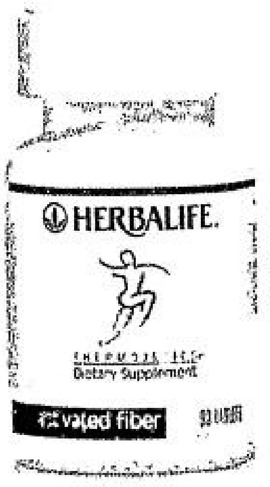

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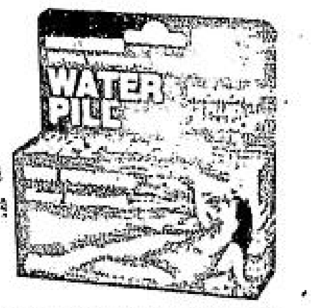

NATURE'S Bounty Water Pill

ERIC Maningat of Studio 546 creates with Davines Wizards.

QUICK Setting Hard Gel for Wizards

New hairstyling line

TOP HAIR EXPERTS WOVE MAGIC IN THE RECENT LAUNCHING of Davines Wizards.

Davines is a top Italian hair care, color, and styling brand from Italy. Its newest line is called Wizards.

Using the new line, hair stylists came up with designs. They included Davines' trainer, John Magno; Shangri-La Plaza Basement Salon's Stefan Wilczynski; Piandre Salon's Andrea Zulueta; Salon de Ken's Louis Kee; Rockwell Basement Salon's Angelo Justin; Emphasis Salon's Victor Ortega; Greenbelt Bench Fix's Philippe Tordjman; David Salon's David Charlton; and Studio 546's Eric Maningat.

"Davines for Wizards was conceptualized to stimulate the creativity of the hairdressers, so they can become real wizards and weave magic into hair," said Sergio Cavazzana, Davines' business development manager for Asia.

"A hairdresser can achieve a certain style by using just one product from the line," he added. "Before, it would take three to four products to achieve the same look."

Davines Wizard Finest Oil Non Oil fluid protects the hair against fizz. It contains almond proteins and conditioning agents to give hair softness, moisture and shine.

For matte finish and lasting hold, the Mat Moulding Gesso and shea-butter-enriched Glossy Pasteline moisturize the tresses.

The Universal Body Mousse gives control and volume to fine hair, while the Glossy Modeling Putty leaves hair soft and shiny.

Best for medium-length locks, Mat Pliable Stucco gives locks a matte look. The medium-hold pastes do not weigh hair down; they give locks natural-looking definition.

Crystal Fixative Lacquer moisturizes the hair while reducing flakes and hair buildup which is usually associated with hairspray.

Ideal for short hairdos, the Quick Setting Hard Gel gives the hair a semi-matte effect when applied on dry hair, and an ultra-wet look when applied on wet hair.

Structuring Mist is a medium-hold, no-gas hairspray that leaves no irritating residue on tresses. Lastly, the Universal Polishing Coat solid silicone drops provide the hair light control, shine and softness.

Davines Styling and Finishing Tools for Wizards are also available.

Call 6870424 or 6871156.

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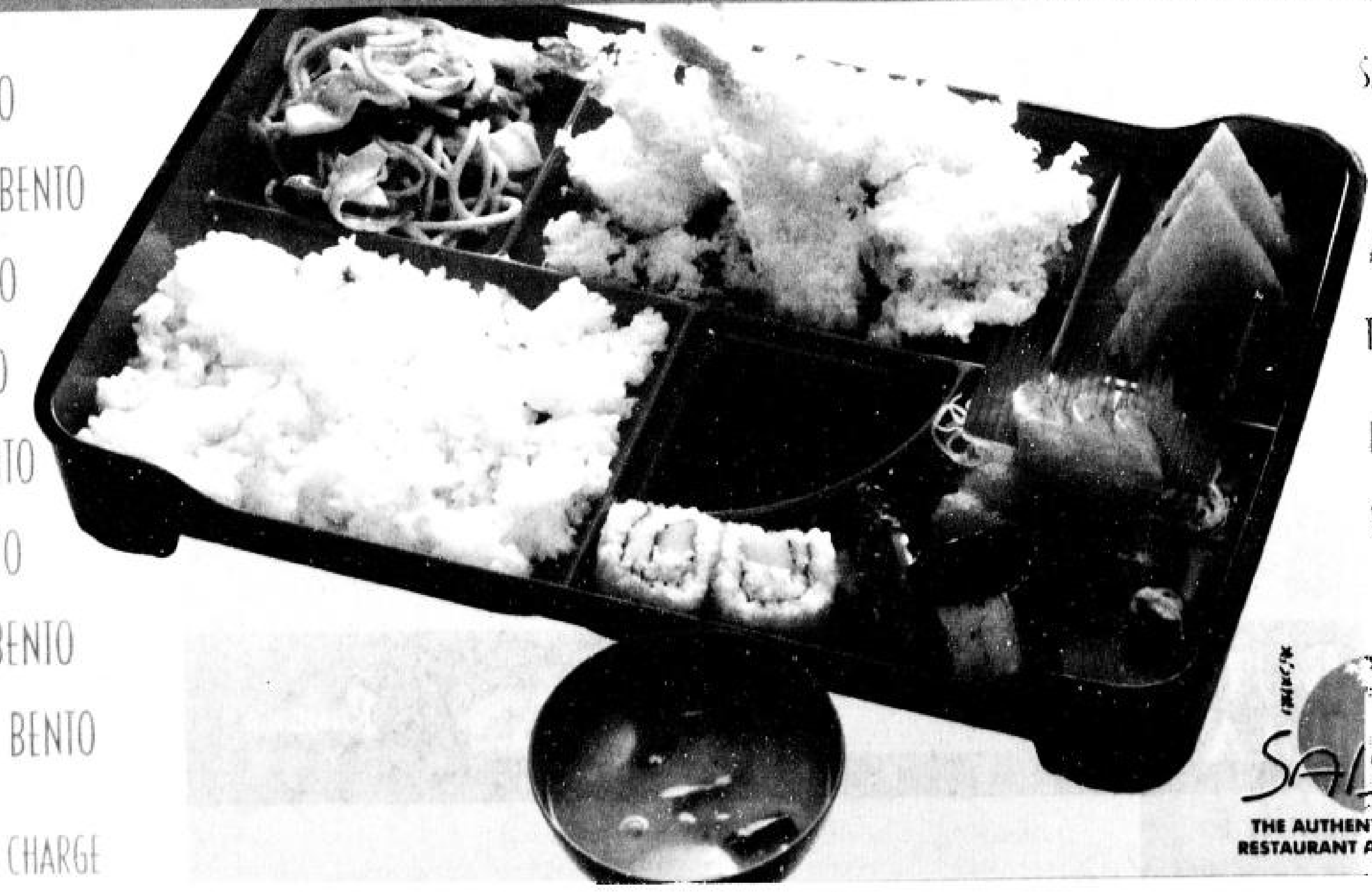

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

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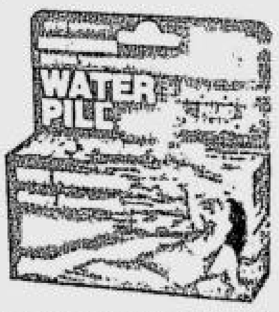

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TOP HAIR EXPERTS WOVE MAGIC IN THE RECENT LAUNCHING of Davines Wizards.

Davines is a top Italian hair care, color, and styling brand from Italy. Its newest line is called Wizards.

Using the new line, hair stylists came up with designs. They included Davines' trainer, John Magno; Shangri-La Plaza Basement Salon's Stefan Wilczynski; Piandre Salon's Andrea Zulueta; Salon de Ken's Louis Kee; Rockwell Basement Salon's Angelo Justin; Emphasis Salon's Victor Ortega; Greenbelt Bench Fix's Philippe Tordjman; David Salon's David Charlton; and Studio 546's Eric Maningat.

"Davines for Wizards was conceptualized to stimulate the creativity of the hairdressers, so they can become real wizards and weave magic into hair," said Sergio Cavazzana, Davines' business development manager for Asia.

"A hairdresser can achieve a certain style by using just one product from the line," he added. "Before, it would take three to four products to achieve the same look."

Davines Wizard Finest Oil Non Oil fluid protects the hair against fizz. It contains almond proteins and conditioning agents to give hair softness, moisture and shine.

For matte finish and lasting hold, the Mat Moulding Gesso and shea-butter-enriched Glossy Pasteline moisturize the tresses.

The Universal Body Mousse gives control and volume to fine hair, while the Glossy Modeling Putty leaves hair soft and shiny.

Best for medium-length locks, Mat Pliable Stucco gives locks a matte look. The medium-hold pastes do not weigh hair down; they give locks natural-looking definition.

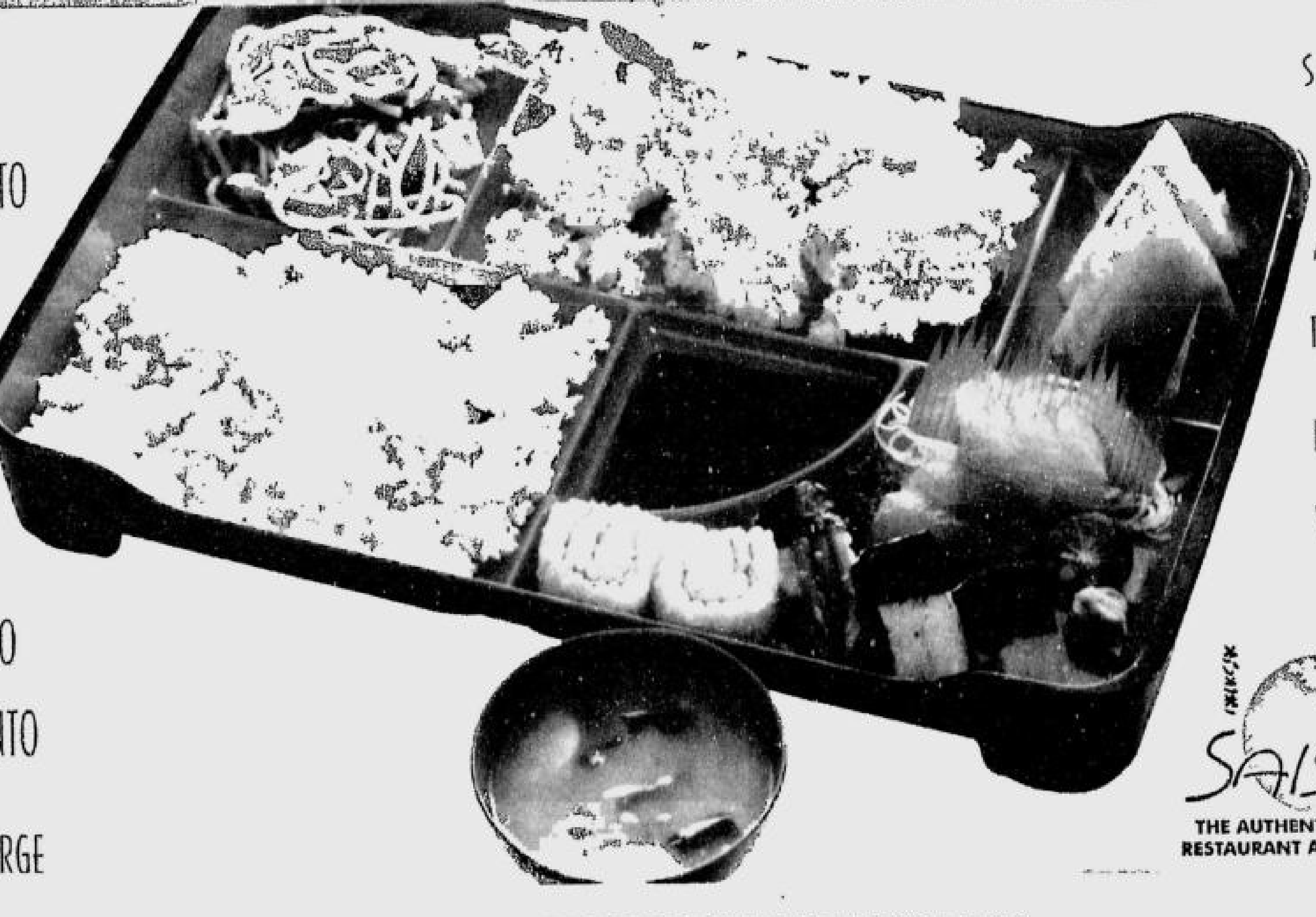
Crystal Fixative Lacquer moisturizes the hair while reducing flakes and hair buildup which is usually associated with hairspray.

Ideal for short hairdos, the Quick Setting Hard Gel gives the hair a semi-matte effect when applied on dry hair, and an ultra-wet look when applied on wet hair.

Structuring Mist is a medium-hold, no-gas hairspray that leaves no irritating residue on tresses. Lastly, the Universal Polishing Coat solid silicone drops provide the hair light control, shine and softness.

Davines Styling and Finishing Tools for Wizards are also available.

Call 6870424 or 6871156.



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